

THE North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	Feb. 2	Hankow	Mar. 10
San Francisco	9	Yokohama	11
Hongkong	Mar. 6	Nagasaki	5
Tientsin	3	Foochow	3

BIRTHS.

At Chemulpo, Corea, on the 8th of March, 1900, the wife of CARL WOLTER, of a son.
On the 10th March, 1900, at 11, Woosung Road, Shanghai, the wife of Capt. JOHN DEWAR, s.s. *Chungking*, of a daughter.
On the 11th of March, 1900, at 3, Wah Hai Miao Road, Shanghai, the wife of CECIL SIMON, H.B.M. Board of Works, of a daughter.

At No. 2, Dent Road, Shanghai, on the 11th instant, the wife of J. M. SMITH, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 10th of March, 1900, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., ALEXANDER SAMSON to SARA LESLIE.

DEATHS.

At the Hongkew Coffee House, on the 7th of March, 1900, MARY JANE ULBRICHT, aged 53 years.

On the 24th of February, 1900, HERMANN EDWARD OTTO, son of Mr. & Mrs. H. SCHROETER, Tientsin, of Scarlatina, age nearly 14 months.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, WEDNESDAY, 14 MAR. 1900.

THE RETURNS OF TRADE FOR 1899.

II.

APPENDED to Mr. Taylor's report, which we have already noticed, are as usual a series of very complete comparative tables. There who are directly interested in the foreign trade of China have, of course, already provided themselves with this *brochure*, but the general reader will find some notes on them worth a cursory glance. We have already dealt with the comparative tables of the annual value of the foreign

trade for 13 years and the Customs revenue for the same period. Two pages are devoted to the annual value of the trade with each country for eight years. Taking the first and last of the eight years, we extract the following figures, in Haikuan taels:—

	1892.	1899.
British Empire	171,500,000	286,200,000
United States	16,800,000	44,000,000
Continent of Europe, Russia excepted	22,300,000	46,900,000
Russian Empire	7,600,000	22,100,000
Japan	14,800,000	53,100,000
Total, foreign countries	237,700,000	460,500,000

When we see that the trade last year of the whole of the Continent of Europe, excluding Russia, amounted to something less than 47 million taels, while that of the British Empire was over 286 millions, we cannot but feel somewhat reassured. Japan, it will be seen, has passed the whole of the European Continent, Russia, excepted.

Three pages are devoted to a comparative statement of the net import of foreign goods, quantities and values, in 1899 and the previous year. Of opium, 59,100 piculs were imported, against 49,785 piculs in 1898. In cotton goods, there was practically no difference in grey shirtings, but an improvement in white, dyed, and Japanese. There was a considerable decline in English T-cloths and a marked advance in Japanese; and a considerable advance in English, Dutch, and American drills, English jeans, and Indian, American, and Japanese sheetings. The prosperity of the country or at least so much of it as is within reach of foreign goods at all, is shown by the large increase in the import of fancy goods, such as chintzes, handkerchiefs, towels, etc., etc.; while there was a concurrent increase in the demand for the yarn from which native cottons are partly woven, the comparative figures for the respective years being, in piculs:—

	1899.	1898.
English	58,703	73,590
Indian	1,906,426	1,399,930
Japanese	779,700	485,244

Another proof of prosperity is the increase in the import of woollens, cloth only excepted. On the other hand, there was a considerable decline in the import of metals, except iron sheets and plates, lead,

steel, and nickel. There was a large decrease in the import of kerosene oil from America and Sumatra, and an increase from Russia.

The value of native goods exported increased from Tls. 159,000,000 in 1898 to Tls. 196,000,000 in 1899, and the increase was widely distributed through the long list of products that now find buyers in foreign markets. A great part of this increase was due to the demand for Chinese silk, of which the crop last year was a very good one. The comparative figures are, in piculs:—

Silk.	1899.	1898.
White, raw	59,845	43,536
Yellow, ...	14,146	7,746
Wild, ...	24,674	16,489
Steam filature, raw.....	49,435	41,050
Cocoons	12,657	9,058
Refuse	91,254	71,339
.. cocoons	9,221	9,526
Piece goods	15,670	17,537
Shantung pongees	2,418	1,782
Unclassed products.....	1,782	1,934

There was not very much increase in the value of the tea shipped during the year; but as an instance of the value which the trade in what used to be called "muck and truck" is assuming, it may be noted that hides were shipped to the value of nearly four million taels, goatskins to nearly the same value, and sheep's wool to the value of over three and a-half millions.

Teamen will be interested in the tables on pages 18 and 19 giving the destination of the tea exported, and the comparative total export for ten years. The total export in 1890 of all kinds was Pls. 1,665,396; it went up to Pls. 1,865,680 in 1895, and down to Pls. 1,532,158 in 1897, recovering last year to Pls. 1,630,795.

On page 20 is found the list of shipping entered and cleared for six years. Excluding junks, the total last year was 56,957 vessels of 38,863,902 tons; of which 25,350 of 23,338,230 tons were British, 22,548 of 8,944,819 tons Chinese, 3,712 of 2,839,741 tons Japanese, and the remainder divided among fifteen other flags. It may be noted that in 1890 the steamers entered and cleared were 25,838 and the sailers 5,295; while in 1899 the steamers were 52,720 and the sailers, including 8,500 junks, 12,698.

On page 20 the total revenue of each port is given for nine years, the notable points being the great increase in the Northern ports, Chungking, Ichang, Hankow, and Shanghai, and the decline in the Southern ports. It will be noticed that Hangchow has rapidly assumed a high place in the list, in which it is followed closely by the new West River ports and Mêngtze.

Passing over some tables of not much interest to the general reader, we come to tables showing the share taken by each nationality in the carrying trade with foreign countries. The following figures are significant

and should not be forgotten, as from what is written sometimes in foreign journals, the careless reader might think that British commerce is being ousted from China by its continental rivals. The figures represent Hankuan taels:—

Flag.	Import duties.	Tonnage dues.	Export duties.
British	4,638,793	279,622	1,980,588
German.....	901,298	51,391	282,751
Chinese.....	830,567	5,787	267,156
Japanese	647,140	53,930	307,047
Total.....	7,578,280	485,767	3,588,438

This is enough to show the pre-eminent position that we still occupy in the China trade. This is still more plainly shown in the table on page 32: Hk. Tls.

The total value of the foreign and coast trade is 1,210,490,632
Of which the Chinese share is .. 404,090,869

Leaving the foreign share ... 806,399,763
Of this the British share is... 613,300,648

And that of all the other Powers together 193,099,115

And the total duties paid, tonnage dues, etc., show a similar condition. Finally we make the following extract from the statement of the foreign population of China:—

	No. of Firms.	No. of Residents.
British	401	5,562
Japanese	195	2,440
American	70	2,335
Russian	19	1,621
Portuguese	10	1,423
French	76	1,183
German	115	1,134
All other Powers ...	47	1,495

Summary of News.

THE German mail of the 5th of February arrived here on the 9th inst. by the N.-D.L.S. *König Albert*.

THE French mail of the 10th of February is expected here this afternoon by the M.M.S. *Annam*.

A MAIL leaves on Friday for Europe by the N.-D.L.S. *Stuttgart*.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS' EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

London, 6th March.

STORMBERG RECOVERED.

General Gatacre has entered Stormberg unopposed.

THE SUCCESS OF COLONEL BRABANT.

The victory gained by Brabant's colonial troops was complete, and the Boers are in full retreat and are being pursued.

THE ATTACK ON THE BOERS' MAIN FORCE.

Reuter's correspondent at Osfontein telegraphs on the 3rd instant that General French's Artillery shelled the right of the Boer position on the north bank of the river. The position extends for eight miles in

country which is favourable for the British operations, and in which there is an abundant supply of water.

London, 7th March.

COLONEL BADEN-POWELL TO BE RESCUED.

A strong force from Kimberley is marching to the relief of Mafeking. BRITISH TERRITORY CLEARED.

General Buller reports that Natal is practically clear of the enemy.

MUCH DISEASE AT LADYSMITH.

There are 800 cases of typhoid fever at Ladysmith.

THE SINEWS OF WAR PROVIDED.

The House of Commons has adopted the Budget resolutions relating to additional duties, and has also approved the loan.

Later.

CAPE COLONY DUTCH IN REVOLT.

Reuter's correspondent at Cape Town telegraphs on the 6th inst. that the districts of Prieska and Kenhardt have proclaimed themselves Free State territory, and that nearly the whole Dutch population is in a state of rebellion. The movement is spreading to Victoria West, Fraserburg, and other districts. The number of rebels is estimated at three thousand.

London, 8th March.

HER MAJESTY GOING TO IRELAND.

H. M. the Queen is to visit Ireland in April.

DEFEAT OF THE NEWLY COLLECTED BOER ARMY.

THE ENEMY IN FULL RETREAT.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Osfontein on the 7th instant that on that day he attacked the enemy, who were occupying a position extending from four miles to the north to eleven miles to the south of the Modder River. The cavalry succeeded in turning the left flank of the enemy, who are in full retreat and are being closely pursued. Our casualties are but few.

London, 8th March.

PRETORIA PREPARING FOR ATTACK.

The *Daily News* states that 5,000 Kaffirs are digging trenches round Pretoria.

THE BOER NAPOLEON.

It is stated that the Government has decided to send General Cronje to St. Helena till the termination of the war, and that it will entertain no proposal for the exchange of prisoners. LOSSES IN RELIEVING LADYSMITH.

General Buller's total losses from the 14th to the 27th of February amount to 252 killed, 1,512 wounded, and 95 missing.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Osfontein says that the routed Boers are estimated as numbering 10,000, and that they are led by Commandants De Wet and Delarey. The British have captured guns, an immense quantity of forage, and a large number of tents.

London, 9th March.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

H. M. the Queen drove through the chief streets of the West End of London yesterday and received an immense ovation. The scene was a memorable one.

FAUGH A BALLAGH!

H. M. the Queen has ordered that henceforth on St. Patrick's Day all ranks in Irish Regiments shall wear as a distinctive mark a sprig of shamrock in their head-dress to commemorate their gallantry in the recent battles.

PROGRESS IN CAPE COLONY.

General Gatacre has occupied Burghersdorp, and General Clements, Norvalspont, where the bridge was blown up on the 6th instant. The enemy are holding the north bank (of the Orange river) but are not in great strength.

MAFEKING IN A BAD WAY.

News has been received from Mafeking, dated the 19th of February, stating that typhoid fever and malaria are raging in the women's and children's laager, and that many of the garrison are dying owing to the want of good food. It is also stated that the hospitals are full to overflowing.

THE PRICE OF A RACE-HORSE.

At the sale of the late Duke of Westminster's stud, *Flying Fox* realised the price of 37,500 guineas.

Later.

THE PACIFICATION OF THE DISAFFECTED DUTCH.

Troops have been forwarded to the disaffected districts in the north-west of Cape Colony.

THE BELEAGUERED BLUEJACKETS RETURNING TO THE POWERFUL.

The Naval Brigade from Ladysmith has arrived at Durban en route for Simon's Town, and was received with tremendous enthusiasm.

SIR GEORGE WHITE GETTING A REST.

General White has gone to Pietermaritzburg.

GENERAL CLEMENTS MOVING ON.

General Clements has moved his main camp six miles nearer the river.

THE CAPE COLONY CLEARED OF BOERS.

The Boers have completely withdrawn to the Free State.

London, 10th March.

THE VAIN EFFORTS OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS.

Lord Roberts, in a telegram from Poplar Grove, says that Presidents Krüger and Steyn were both present at the fight on the 7th instant, and did their utmost to rally the Boers; but the rout was complete, the Boers declaring that they were unable to withstand the British artillery and such a formidable cavalry force.

Later.

THE DISPOSAL OF THE BRITISH FORCE IN NATAL.

General Warren's division is going to reinforce Lord Roberts.

THE NEW WAR LOAN.

The War Loan of thirty millions sterling has been issued at £98.10, bearing interest at 2½%, and repayable on the 5th of April 1910.

THE DISPERSION OF THE BOERS.

Reuter's correspondent at Poplar Grove wires on the 9th instant that General French was ten miles ahead and reports that the front is clear of the enemy.

IMMEDIATE OPPOSITION IMPROBABLE.

The Boers are disorganised, and there is a general impression that our progress to Bloemfontein will be unopposed.

THE DISPATCH OF REINFORCEMENTS.

The Eighth Division begins to sail on the 14th instant.

London, 11th March.

THE PACIFICATION OF THE DISAFFECTED DUTCH.

Lord Kitchener is at Victoria Road organising the advance of the troops into the rebellious districts in Griqualand.

THE OCCUPATION OF JAMESTOWN.

Colonel Brabant has occupied Jamestown.

RUMOURS AS TO PEACE.

Various peace reports are current. The Republics are said to be insisting on their independence, but nothing definite has transpired, and little is expected therefrom.

GENERAL WHITE AT PIETERMARITZBURG.

Sir George White had a splendid reception at Pietermaritzburg. He is still weak and in a feverish condition.

THE BOERS ON THE DEFENSIVE.

The Boers are entrenching themselves near Biggarsberg, and are guarding the western passes of the Drakensburg.

London, 11th March.

MONEY ABUNDANT.

The War Loan has already been three times covered. The United States have made offers to take the whole loan.

COLONEL BRABANT'S ADVANCE.

Brabant's Colonial troops are advancing to Aliwal North.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT.**THE BOERS BEING MOVED ON.**

Col. R. G. Broadwood's brigade when advancing on Bloemfontein yesterday unexpectedly found the enemy in a strong position among the kopjes at Driefontein. General Kelly-Kenny's division arrived and there was sharp fighting. Our cavalry turned the position and the Boers were dislodged from the centre kopje but they hung tenaciously to the rest. Forty Boers were taken prisoners and there were a number of dead. Our force is moving forward to-day.

London, 12th March.

MORE ABOUT SATURDAY'S BATTLE.

Lord Roberts, in a telegram from Driefontein dated the 11th instant, says that the brunt of the fighting on the previous day fell upon General Kelly-Kenny's division, the Welsh and Essex Regiments dislodging the Boers from two strong positions at the point of the bayonet. The Boers suffered heavily, leaving 102 dead on the field, and losing twenty prisoners.

THE BOERS AT THEIR OLD TRICKS.

Lord Roberts has again telegraphed to Presidents Krüger and Steyn complaining of the abuse of the white flag, and he complains also of the use of explosive bullets.

Later.

REBELS COMING IN.

Large numbers of rebels are surrendering at Lady Grey, Herschell, and Aliwal North, and it is reported that thousands of rebels contemplate surrendering to — Braday (? Brabant).

THE BOERS IN TROUBLE.

The Boers on the border are in serious straits.

THE AUSTRALIANS AGAIN.

Reuter's correspondent at Driefontein telegraphs on the 11th inst. that the Australians were largely engaged in the fighting on the 10th instant, which was very severe. When the enemy fled the Australian cavalry alone was able to pursue.

THE ADVANCE OF LORD ROBERTS

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Aasvogel Kop wires on the 11th instant in the evening that Lord Roberts continued his march eastward that day, and that no Boers were seen. Lord Roberts is now twenty-five miles from Bloemfontein.

London, 13th March.

THE ABUNDANCE OF MONEY.

The War Loan has been covered twenty times.

THE ADVANCE INTO THE FREE STATE.

General Gatacre has arrived close to Bethulie (in the south-east of the Orange Free State). The railway bridge is partially destroyed, and the enemy are holding the opposite bank. [This is the railway that runs from Albert Junction in Cape Colony to Springfontein in the Free State through Bethulie.]

SPECIAL SERVICE.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "HONGKONG VOLUNTEER GAZETTE."

Hongkong, 7th March.

A LAST RECONNAISSANCE FROM LADYSMITH.

Reuter's correspondent at Ladysmith telegraphs on the 3rd that a portion of the garrison made another reconnaissance and discovered some Boers behind Pepworth Hill. An engagement followed, but the attack was not pressed and the troops returned. Casualties slight.

THE FIGHTING AT LABUSCAGNA NEK.

The Boers stubbornly resisted Colonel Brabant on the 4th and 5th inst., but retreated suddenly, removing their guns and waggons. The British casualties amounted to thirty men killed and wounded.

Hongkong, 9th March.

THE RECENT DEFEAT OF THE BOERS.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Ofontein on the 7th in the evening, that the British had had a very successful day and completely routed the enemy, who were in full retreat.

The enemy's position was extremely strong and a direct attack would have caused heavy loss. The turning movement was necessarily wide, and the fighting was practically confined to the cavalry, whose horses were much exhausted.

General French reports that the horse batteries did much execution. Our casualties were about fifty killed and wounded.

THE ADVANCE OF THE SIXTH DIVISION.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Poplar Grove on the 8th instant that General Kelly-Kenny's division of infantry and two cavalry brigades with horse artillery marched on that day ten miles to the eastward.

SPECIAL DISPATCH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Kobe, 13th March.

DEATH OF THE U.S. CONSUL-GENERAL AT YOKOHAMA.

Mr. John F. Gowey, United States Consul-General, died at Yokohama this morning.

DESTRUCTION OF THE NEW HONGKONG BANK BUILDING AT PEKING.

News has been received this morning by wire that the new Hongkong Bank building at Peking is on fire and is expected to be a total loss. Everything in the office has been saved, including documents, notes, etc., etc.

THE Director of Siewski Observatory reports:—Wednesday, 7th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 6th.*—The N. depression is very narrow and travels E.N.E. wards near Vladivostok. Barometer rising almost everywhere in China and Japan. Fine weather at Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 7th.*—Glass still rising rapidly. N. winds. Fine weather. —Thursday, 8th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 7th.*—System of high readings in the Yangtze Valley; a second barometric maximum around Lake Baikal. Depression to the S.E. of Japan, light winds on the N. coast. Moderate monsoon in the S. *State on the morning of the 8th.*—Glass falling at Shanghai. —Friday, 9th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 8th.*—No change in the distribution of barometric pressures since yesterday morning. Two maxima, the one over Siberia and the other in the Yangtze Valley. Low pressures to the S.E. of Japan. The high pressures have decreased in intensity and the Siberian

maximum has travelled N. wards. Light N. to W. winds on the N. coast. Moderate N.E. monsoon in the South. —*State on the morning of the 9th.*—Glass rising again. —Saturday, 10th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 9th.*—Glass falling over whole China and rising rather rapidly in Japan. There is, however, a maximum over W. and N.W. China. Wind veering to the S. and S.W. on the N. coast. Moderate monsoon in the S. Fine weather at Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 10th.*—Fine and mild weather. Barometer falling slowly and pressure below mean. Sunday, 11th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 10th.*—The pressure is low over Korea and the N.E. of Japan. Strong N. winds on the N. coast. Much dust in the atmosphere at Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 11th.*—Fine weather and fresh N.E. breezes. Barometer rising rapidly. —Monday, 12th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 11th.*—Deep depression on the sea of Japan, and principally near Tokio. Barometric maximum between Shanghai and Chefoo. Strong N. breezes on the N. coast. Fresh monsoon in the S. Fine weather at Shanghai. —*State on the morning of the 12th.*—Fine and cold weather. Temperature below freezing point. Hoar frost. Pressure 0.24 inches above normal height. —Tuesday, 13th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 12th.*—Very deep depression on the N. of Japan, it is travelling rapidly towards China across the sea of Japan; rapid fall of the barometer in the evening. Strong S. breezes. Barometric maximum passing to the S. of the Yangtze. Normal monsoon in the Formosa Channel. *State on the morning of the 13th.*—The barometer has fallen 0.51 inch since yesterday. Weather becoming milder and wind tending to shift to the S.W.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

1900.				
	Fahr.	Thermometer.	Min.	Max.
Mar. 7		49.3	.....	49.8
" 8		57.7	.....	59.6
" 9		61.6	.....	62.6
" 10		41.4	.....	67.8
" 11		37.0	.....	51.0
" 12		33.2	.....	49.1
" 13		42.1	.....	67.0
1899.				
	Min.	Max.		
Mar 7		57.0	.....	0.09
" 8		48.0	.....	
" 9		47.0	.....	0.26
" 10		47.6	.....	0.34
" 11		47.0	.....	0.08
" 12		37.7	.....	
" 13		27.0	.....	

We are asked by Lady Hannen to express her deep gratitude for the generous way people in Shanghai have contributed to the boxes for the Soldiers in South Africa, and to mention that she has now sent off the last consignment of comforts, making nineteen boxes. Any money left over when freight and expenses are paid will be spent on tobacco. The community in Kiukiang have generously collected and sent the sum of \$450.75, and would like this money to be devoted to a bed in one of the hospitals.

We are sure that we may safely add to this note that the British community here are deeply grateful to Lady Hannen for the energy and devotion she has shown in this service, and for the hearty kindness with which she has taken on herself

the task of directing their efforts and those of their friends of other nationalities to cheer the British troops at the front.

A subscription list is being circulated among the community in order that a purse may be raised for Lady Alabaster, who has been left in needy circumstances by the death of her husband, Sir Chaloner Alabaster. Many of us were personal friends of Sir Chaloner, and all of us know what an unfailing champion he was of British rights and British prestige in China, what a good friend he was, and how assiduously he worked in furthering British interests at every port at which he was stationed, and how ready he was to assist with his advice or otherwise any British subject who came to him. Mr. A. J. Howe will be glad to receive subscriptions from anyone at Shanghai or in the out-ports who feels inclined to participate in this testimonial to the late Sir Chaloner's deserts, and contributions sent to Mr. Howe will be forwarded by him to Mr. George Jamieson, to be added to a similar fund now being collected at home.

SHANGHAI was visited on Saturday by the fringe of a dust storm.

We understand that the capital of the Peking Syndicate was fully subscribed in London, and it will shortly commence work on its concession in China.

THE last case mentioned in the Mixed Court report of Saturday was a rather suspicious one, when it is remembered that there are many Chinese in the Settlement whom the authorities are anxious to get hold off on political charges. It is satisfactory to know that great vigilance in the matter of granting warrants and making arrests is being exercised.

We understand it is the intention of the Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks Company, Ltd., to recommend a final dividend of 25s. per share for the past year.

We have received from Mr. J. T. Hamilton a really excellent *Atlas of Two Wars*, containing large scale maps of the Philippine Islands and South Africa, issued by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S.

AASVOGEL KOP is south-east of Abraham's Kraal and about half-way between that point and Bloemfontein. Bethulie is in the south-east of the Orange Free State, close to the frontier, while on the other side of the frontier, and more to the eastward, in Cape Colony, are Aliwal North, Herschell, and Lady Grey.

THE prospectus has been issued of S. Moutrie & Co., Ltd., which is to take over the business of S. Moutrie & Co., of Shanghai and Yokohama. The proposed capital is \$125,000 in 2,500 shares of \$50 each, the provisional directors being Messrs. R. B. Allen, E. P. Wickham, and S. Moutrie, the last of whom will join the board after allotment, and is to be the manager of the Company for ten years. Of the shares, 1,200 have been applied for and will be allotted in full, and the remaining 1,300 are now offered to the public, the list of applications closing on the 31st instant.

A SMALL blaze broke out in an alleyway off the Woosung Road at a few minutes past twelve o'clock on Wednesday night. The fire was found to be in a quantity of reeds and straw which had been stored alongside a bamboo fence and was extinguished almost immediately by the police and some neighbours with buckets of water. The fire brigade turned out upon the alarm being given, but their services were not required.

THE total value of the contents of the godown in the Peking Road burnt out on Sunday was nearly Tls. 100,000, but there is expected to be salvage amounting to some 30 to 40 per cent. The Fire Offices interested are the Hongkong, Alliance, Eastern, and Royal. But that the wind which had been blowing during the day had dropped at sunset, the conflagration

would have been very much more extensive.

GENEAL regret will be felt at the news that Lieut. David J. Keswick, of the 12th Lancers, the second son of Mr. Wm. Keswick, M.P., of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., was killed in the recent fighting in the Free State at the age of 24, having had several narrow escapes previously. His elder brother, Mr. Henry Keswick, is now on his way to South Africa.

THERE will be very great regret in seafaring circles at the news of the death of Mrs. Ubricht, who has been for so many years the much-respected and careful manageress of the Hongkew Coffee House. She was a very conscientious, hard-working, reliable and kindhearted person, and many a sailor will feel that he has lost a true friend by her premature removal.

It is stated from Wuhu that the Taotai of that port, Wu, intends to construct a swinging bridge across the river, near the city, the plans being obtained from a Shanghai Engineering firm, and that work on the bridge is to commence this week.

A NANKING dispatch states that, on the 6th instant, the proprietors of the native private postal agencies of that port presented a petition to the acting Viceroy Lu Ch'uan-lin, complaining that, whereas at the beginning of the establishment of the Chinese Imperial Post these agencies were charged letter postage at the rate of ten Mexican cents per pound, this had now been increased to sixty-four cents per pound. The petitioners declare that they find it impossible to exist on the new terms and, therefore, pray H.E. to mitigate matters by ordering the resumption of the old rate. The acting Viceroy explained to the petitioners that he had no power to do anything, though he sympathised with them, and finally advised them to petition the Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Post Office on the matter.

It is stated that the denunciation made against the five Hanlin Reformers the other day, which led to the decree of loss of rank and imprisonment for life, was due to the Grand Secretary and Assistant Preceptor of the Heir Apparent, Hsü T'ung, a Chinese Bannerman or Manchun, who is also Chancellor of the Hanlin Academy, and who glories in his name of being the most bigoted member of the Conservative Party and the most uncompromising enemy of foreigners and everything foreign.

Those who attended Mr. Crompton's Ballad concert at the Lyceum on Monday afternoon, many being deterred by the bitterly cold south-east wind that was blowing, heard some excellent singing and some very pretty orchestral music. Mrs. Langhrie gave very well and with great taste Tosti's "Love's Gift" for the first time in Shanghai. Mr. Vyvyan Dent, though suffering from a very severe cold, sang excellently Lehmann's "Myself when young." Mrs. Timm accompanied by Mr. Mortensen delighted the audience with two songs by Heise and Wennerberg. Mr. H. Clapp gave in his own familiar and very popular style Smart's "The full moon is beaming" with orchestral accompaniment. Miss Finch sang very prettily and with much expression the charming song "Once" by Hervey, and had to repeat the last verse. Dr. Decker's fine voice was well heard in Nessler's "Es hat nicht sollen sein," and he also had to repeat the last verse. Miss Milley gave a very pleasant and artistic rendering of Tito Mattei's "Leave me not," and Mrs. Shorrocks chose "Sweet and Low" (Wallace), and another contralto song, and sang them so well that it was impossible to regret the absent quartet whose place on the programme she took. Three pieces by Mozart, Thomé, and Langer, respectively, very carefully played by a small but well-balanced orchestra, conducted by Mr. Crompton, completed a very attractive programme.

THE third of Professor Sternberg's Symphony. Concerts takes place at the Masonic Hall on the 23rd instant, and as its two predecessors were so successful, lovers of good music may look forward to another highly enjoyable evening.

THERE was a fairly good house at the performance given by Les Sphinx on Wednesday night at the Lyceum and it was received with mingled amusement and wonder, the thought-reading being very cleverly done.

THE first smoking concert ever given by the Shanghai Football Club took place at the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society on Wednesday night. In the enforced absence of Sir Nicholas Hammen (the President), Mr. E. C. Pearce took the chair and played a genial part in a very successful evening. There were many singers, and many good songs, and the concert promises to be one of a series.

WE have received from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. a copy of the annual report, with the proceedings of the Council, the reports from the various stations in foreign lands, etc., etc. It makes an 8vo. volume, in a paper cover, of 364 pages, and is of very great interest to those who like to be acquainted with the work missionaries are doing. It is published at the Church Mission House, New York.

WE are asked to announce that those intending to visit Foochow during the Christian Endeavour Convention to be held at Foochow from the 4th to the 6th of April inclusive, should take notice that the C. M. S. N. Co. expects to have a steamer leaving for Foochow about the 1st of April. The Company has offered the following special rates to those attending the Convention.

Shanghai to Foochow and return, 1st class	\$40
Shanghai to Foochow and return, Chinese	\$20

The steamer has accommodation for from fifteen to twenty first-cabin passengers. Those intending to take this steamer will do well to engage cabin rooms without delay as it is likely there will be no room to spare.

AT half-past two o'clock on Friday afternoon a labourer working on the building in course of erection at the corner of the Kiangse and Nanking Roads fell from the scaffolding into the road, sustaining a fractured skull and thigh. He was immediately taken to the Shantung Road Hospital.

THE districts where the Dutch are said to be in a state of rebellion are to the south-west of the Orange Free State, and some distance to the south of the Orange River, and west of the railway from the Cape via Kimberley and Mafeking to Bulawayo.

It is stated by the *Universal Gazette* that Sir Claude Macdonald called at the Tsungli Yamén on the 22nd ultimo, to make certain demands on the Government for the recent outrage on the British Boundary Commission on the Yunnan-Burma borders, resulting in the wounding of Mr. Litton, British Consul at Sz-mao, and the death of two officers. It seems that the Chinese authorities in Yunnan had foreknowledge of the intended attack but failed to warn the Commission of it. It is not known what the demands of the British Minister were.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL E. Y. Brabant, who is commanding a division of all the South African Light Horse, Police, and Mounted Infantry, is a large landed proprietor in the eastern part of Cape Colony. He commanded the first yeomanry regiment at the Cape. On the disbanding of this force he served with the Mounted Corps against Moirosi, and was engaged in the Basuto War of 1881 under Sir Frederick Carrington. He was in the Gaika War in 1877

and 1878, when he commanded a body of Colonial farmers, all mounted colonials, who did excellent service, and who fought exactly as the Boers do. He is an excellent officer and greatly liked by all the colonials. He is a member of the Cape Legislature. His son, who served in the Imperial Light Horse, was killed at the battle of Elands-laagte. General Brabant is a fine specimen of the tough experienced Colonial warrior. He was been through a dozen native wars, and has upon many occasions shown his dash, pluck, and enterprise.

THE latter of the two following notes is taken from a Japanese newspaper:—

The war between China and Japan cost, says the *Sicwei Chinese Reporter*, 469,000,000 frs. This, nearly £20,000,000. The Chinese indemnity amounted to 750,000,000 frs. Japan gained by the war 281,000,000 frs. or about £11,000,000. The Boer war costs England more than this because each soldier of whom there are 180,000 or more requires each day one catty of meat, one do. bread, 3 mace coffee, 2 do. tea, 5 do. salt, 3 do. chocolate, and something more for condiments, sugar, etc. England at the same rate will be able to ask the Boers to pay £30,000,000 in part money, in part land. This will lighten the burden of home taxation in England.

Increase in taxation. In Fukien there will be in May an increase in duties on all go ds at Santuwan. Instead of being levied at 5 per cent on the value as heretofore it will be levied at seven per cent. (But some read twenty-five per cent. The Chinese account is open to misconception.) The Commissioner wrote to the Foreign Ministers resident in Peking to inform them of this. He also stated the same to the public in a proclamation. The Ministers in Peking have signified to the Tsungli Yamén that they have no objection to this additional duty being charged to traders of the nationalities they represent. The new rate of duty will be levied for the first time on the 8th of May of this year.

WE have duly received the March issue of *The Chinese Recorder and Missionary Journal*. It contains, as usual, several very interesting articles of practical value, including a report by Dr. Griffith John on "London Mission Work in Hunan and Hupeh." We take the following from the "Editorial Comment":—

Our missionary friends in the province of Shantung are certainly living in perilous times. The "Boxers" are threatening them on every hand, and while no foreign missionary has suffered violence—so far as we know—since the lamentable death of Mr. Brooks, yet the native Christians have endured untold persecution, have been mulcted in fines of fifty taels or more each, in places, and been robbed and plundered, the Chinese officials quietly looking on. Soldiers have been sent to various places, but with strict orders to make no trouble with the "Boxers." A friend writes that the Empress Dowager is trying to protect the missionaries under one wing and the Boxers under the other. We scarcely think, though, that she has the missionaries "under her wing." At the same time she is afraid to have them killed or driven out for fear of international complications. A note from Dr. Porter, of Pangchuang, received just before we go to press, states that Dr. Smith (Rev. A. H.) and Mr. Chapin had gone to Chinanfu to consult with Mr. Campbell in the matter of the Boxers.

H.M.S. *Brisk* arrived at Woosung yesterday en route to Weihaiwei.

THE M.M.S. *Annam* with the French mail of the 10th ultimo left Hongkong for Shanghai on Monday at 8 p.m.

THE P. & O.S. *Masilua*, with the London mail of the 16th ultimo left Singapore at 1 p.m. on Sunday the 11th instant for Hongkong and Shanghai.

THE N.-D.L.S. *Stuttgart* left Kobe on Monday morning for Shanghai.

THE U. S. M. S. *City of Rio de Janeiro* arrived at Yokohama on Sunday last and may be expected here on the 17th instant.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of India* arrived at Vancouver on Wednesday at 1.30 a.m.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of China* arrived at Yokohama yesterday at 9.30 a.m., was to leave at 5 p.m., and may be expected to reach Kobe to-day at about 4 p.m.

THE O.S.S. *Calchas*, which arrived on Monday from Kobe, reports as follows:—From Goto Islands across, had strong gale and high sea, gale starting in S. E. and working round by S. and W. to N.W. and N., moderating on approaching port.

THE str. *Leypen* and *Feiching* have come out of the Oriental Dock after receiving their usual periodical overhaul.

H.M.S. *Hermione* was to leave Hongkong on Sunday to relieve the *Bonaventure* at this opt, and the latter vessel is expected to leave Shanghai for Woosung and Hongkong on Wednesday morning.

THE U.S. gunboat *Gustine* was on Thursday evening towed to the Cosmopolitan Dock.

THE Russian man-of-war *Koréte* arrived on Saturday morning from Port Arthur and went to an anchorage near the N. Y. K. Wharf.

THE str. *Kwanglee* was docked at Tungka-to Dock on Wednesday morning.

THE I.C. str. *Taisang*, from Hongkong via Swatow, reports strong N.E. winds, high sea, and thick hazy weather from Hongkong to Swatow; thence to Turnabout fine clear weather and light N.E. winds and afterwards strong N.E. winds, very hazy weather, the wind working to the southward on nearing port.

THE C.M.S. *Irena*, from Hongkong, reports fresh and moderate breezes from N.N.E., with dull weather and occasional rain showers, to Haitan Strait. Thence to port moderate light breezes from N. to N.E. prevailed.

THE str. *Hanychow*, which arrived on Sunday from Hakodate, reports strong westerly and N.W. gales, with snow, till the 9th instant, thence till arrival N.E. winds with fine weather, glass falling rapidly.

THE str. *Loongmoon*, which arrived on Saturday from Hongkong, reports, from Hongkong to Breaker Point squally weather, rain, and strong N.E. wind; from Breaker Point to Cony Island clear weather and strong N.N.E. wind; thence to Bonham Island westerly winds and calm, fine, clear weather and smooth sea.

A LADY in Ningpo sends us the following capital extract from a letter recently received conveying thanks for a Shanghai postal card, with a group of Chinese Artillerymen on one side of it:—

"It was guid o' ye tae think o' me and send a guid wishin' card for 1900. At first glisk I thought, What! Wearin' the breeks! I looked at the faces o' the artillerymen thinking that they were a squad of missionaries. The clothes are a very special feature. They fit only where they touch, and look as if 'a guid shoosie' rain had mak them fit better.' In this particular I was reminded of the tailor of my boyhood, Black by name. A fine cheerie auld man wha lived up the town just beyond Miller's grocer shop. His peculiarities were a certain amount of untidiness, a tendency to whussle quietly when taking one's measure, and a strong smell of stronger tobacco, not unaccompanied with another odour, which, in the days of innocence, I never could divine, but in later years, I found was reminiscent o' the whisky bottle. It was an event in those days to be measured for a suit, for suits cost siller and siller was scarce. And when the 'trying on' time arrived may be ma mither wad tak me up, but oftener my brither tae see that a' was richt. Then the ever cheerie Tailor Black would quietly

whussle and walk round my small carcase with a critical eye and a lump o' whitening in his hand—may be it was chalk—and if there happened to be any unnecessary portions of cloth in the garment which might be spoken of by my older brother the hamely tailor would stop his whussle sufficiently long to say: 'Ou aye; that'll be a' richt efter a shoosie o' rain.' Oh dear me I hoo often I h've laughed at the remark I canna tell, but I can remember hoo I used—according to instructions—to button up my jacket if I happened to be caught in 'a shoosie' wi' ma Sabbath claes on, so that the slack bits would be tightened and the tight bits slackened an' a' wad come richt in the end. Weel, the Tailor Black o' the Chinese Artillery had apparently the same auld farrant notions, for the uniforms could well stann' a shoosie."

THE following notes are from the *Foo-chow Echo* of the 3rd instant:—

The French cruiser *Jean Bart* arrived on the 20th ultimo.

The German cruiser *Hansa* with Admiral Fritze on board arrived on Wednesday, the 28th ultimo.

We have to record the very unusual occurrence of a thunderstorm at this time of the year. It took place at midnight last night accompanied with heavy rain. The temperature was 50° Fahrenheit.

We have received the *Peking & Tientsin Times* of the 3rd instant.—It says that Tientsin reach was quite clear of ice on the 25th ultimo.—Mr. Consul Carles had gone with his family to Peitaiho.—Diphtheria and scarlet fever were raging among the Chinese.—The new Austro-Hungarian Legation at Peking had been opened with a banquet. The *Kuowenpao* says that the Boxers are drilling round Peking.—The Foreign Ministers were reported to have threatened combined action in reference to the Boxers.—It was rumoured that Yü Lu was to be removed to Peking to make room for Yuan Shih-kai.—The Russians propose to bridge the Newchwang river at Yingkou.

We have received Hongkong papers to the 6th inst.—The *König Albert* made the run from Singapore to Hongkong in exactly four days.—The interruption in the telegraph service between Hongkong and Macao was due to the steamer *Hermesan* fouling the cable, breaking it, and bringing several yards of it on her propeller to Hongkong.—The Varsity Boat Race takes place on the 31st instant.—Five pirates who stole a steam-launch on the Canton river to attack a coal boat in January last have been caught and beheaded.—The *Hongkong Telegraph* of the 5th instant has the following message from its own correspondent:—

Tientsin, 3rd March.

The position is most critical at this port. The Conservative Party are rapidly becoming a menace to foreign interests, the members of the Boxers' Secret Society are creating great trouble and a not unreasonable feeling of apprehension of impending danger exists amongst the foreign community, as the rioters care nothing for the Chin-se troops. Anti-foreign placards have been put up in the native city. The British Legation was notified of this by outsiders some time previously but, as usual, no notice has been taken of information received from unofficial sources. Now the Diplomatic Body are conferring together and have sent an ultimatum to the Tsungli Yamen pointing out the necessity for affording adequate protection to foreigners' lives and property. British gunboats are coming north.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—"The following telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Calcutta, to the Governor of Hongkong, dated 26th February, has been published in the *Government Gazette*:—"Six case of plague occurred in isolated quarter Aden Settlement, 22nd February last. Quarter with all its inhabitants has

been isolated and sick segregated, and all sanitary and pre-ventive measures adopted. Government of India are taking stringent precautions, including burning of infected and neighbouring houses."

THE *China Mail* makes the following extracts:—

"The *Rangoon Gazette* of the 15th February says:—Assistant-Surgeon Dolby has left for the Boundary Commission camp to take the place of the late Major Kiddle.—Further news has been received from Mr. Scott that the Las burnt certain Shan villages, notwithstanding the presence of Chinese troops. Mr. Scott has summoned the Military Police reserve from Hopang to his assistance. Captain French-Mullen is starting at once with 180 rifles and hopes to join Mr. Scott at Mongkaw on the 19th.

"The *Singapore Free Press* of the 23rd February says:—This morning, about 7 o'clock, Mr. Kang Yü-wei and his companions in exile were escorted on board a homeward-bound steamer by a body of armed Sikhs and an Assistant Superintendent of Police. A number of Chinese friends were at the wharf to see them off. The destination of the party is unknown to the public and we will not venture to guess it, nor will we credit current rumour about it, in spite of the publicity given to it by our contemporary the other day. We hope Mr. Kang Yü-wei will enjoy his trip."

We have received Japan papers with dates from Yokohama to the 1st, Kobe the 3rd, and Nagasaki the 5th inst.—It is officially laid down by the Japanese Foreign Minister that "all provisions (in the Japanese Civil Code) implying conditions other than the conditions inscribed on the title-deeds of perpetual leases do not apply, as a matter of course, to those leases."—Baron Nishi, Japanese Minister at Peking, is reported to be suffering from inflammation of the lungs.—The death at Yokohama is announced of Mr. J. A. Werner, a Swede, who fought for the North in the American Civil War, and has been in Japan and its waters for nearly thirty years. He contributed many telling stories to the *Japan Mail*, some of which we have reprinted in these columns, at various times.—The Japanese who have been fishing at Saghalien for nearly half a century, and who have sunk much capital there, have been ordered by the Russians to wind up their affairs, close 269 stations, and clear out within a year. "It is a hard case," says the *Japan Mail*.—The accounts of Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., for the latter half of 1899 show a credit balance at profit and loss of \$4,153 which is carried forward.—The Japanese ironclad *Fuso* has been completely repaired, and will be ready for sea next month.—The recent Tientsin loan of the N. Y. K. Co. is stated to have been made to the Taku Tug and Lighter Co; that the latter may build some tugs and lighters for the special use of the Japanese Company.—It is reported that the Marquis of Lorne has been offered the Governor-Generalship of the Commonwealth of Australia.—The Oriental Hotel Co. at Kobe have decided to establish a first-class hotel at Kioto.—The Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce has decided to establish a Commercial Museum at Shanghai.—Mr. K. Takahira, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, is to be Japanese Minister at Washington.—Nagasaki is again suffering from a scarcity of water.—Viceroy Chang Chihlung has asked for a Japanese expert as manager of the leather manufactory he is starting.—The blue-funnel steamer *Calchas* made the run from her moorings at Kobe to her buoy at Yokohama in 2½ hours.—There was a large fire at Kioto on the 26th.—H.M.S. *Barfleur*, with Rear-Admiral Bruce on board, arrived at Nagasaki on the 3rd.—Tokio and Osaka merchants are establishing a company with a capital of a million yen to work the oil wells of Japan.

The following telegrams are from the *Kobe Herald* :—

Paris, 26th February.

The French Government was questioned in the Chamber of Deputies regarding the despatch of reinforcements to Madagascar and M. Waldeck Rousseau stated in reply that the Government had sent the first artillery brigade to the island on the 10th instant. This action was necessary.

The second brigade would set sail on 6th March next, 4,000 men—the remaining number of reinforcements to be dispatched—will be mobilised from the corps outside of the Republic (in the French colonies). The Chamber accepted the explanation.—*Asahi*.

27th February.

The French Upper Chamber has adopted the proposal to impose the maximum tariff on imports from foreign colonies. It is provided, however, that only the minimum tariff will apply up to 31st August next.

Peking, 28th February.

It is reported that Kang Yü-wei sent a telegram from Singapore to the Tsungli Yamèn threatening the Government to proceed to Peking, as he was in possession of eight million taels and had several million men at his disposal, if the Yamèn dared to depose the Emperor.

This threat is reported to be the chief cause of the Tsungli Yamèn's proceedings for the arrest of the reformers.

The officials of the Tsungli Yamèn do not now call on foreigners except officially. They also decline private calls from foreigners.

The German troops have started inland.—*Yiji*.

On the charge of espousing the cause of Reform, the Court has arrested and thrown into prison five scholars of the National Academy. Availing itself of the non-interference of the Powers the Court has been acting in a very arbitrary manner of late.—*Japan Times*.

Seoul, 1st March.

The Korean Government has sent a communication to the British Minister to Seoul in reply to his request for an Imperial audience. The Government says there is no reason why the concession of the Unsan gold mine should be granted to the British. The British representative had acted inconsiderately when formerly received and the Korean Government intended to demand the recall of the British Minister.

The following note is from the editorial columns of the *Straits Times* :

The *Japan Herald* in reviewing the book entitled *The Governor's Wife* says :—"If this novel is a faithful picture of life in the Straits Settlements, we are forced to the conclusion that healthy-minded persons will do well to avoid those latitudes." The *Japan Herald* then proceeds to argue that even Japan, of which certain awkward things have been written, is more moral than the Straits. Finally the *Japan Herald* says : "We derive a sort of general impression that the women are bleached, ugly, frivolous, or pedantic, and the men nearly all bored or would-be Lotharios, greatly attached to brandies and sodas and strong cigars after dinner." The *Japan Herald* is entitled to hold such views, but it seems to be wrong of the *Japan Herald* to omit to observe that all the immorality in the book was really local to Penang, and should not be debited to the account of the Straits Settlements as a whole. For the morality of Penang we can accept no responsibility, since Penang will not fully accept our sway. Of course in Singapore, or in Kuala Lumpur, we would not allow such things to happen.

The following notes are from the *Nagasaki Press* :—

A local paper learns that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has agreed to lend a Chinese shipping company of Tientsin the sum of 60,400 taels, under special conditions. The

details are being kept secret, as the agreement has not been yet signed.

According to an official dispatch, the Chinese Government has asked the Foreign Ministers at Peking to consent to the levying of an additional import duty on merchandise, to cover the funds required for the construction of harbours at Shantung. The dispatch further states that the Ministers have given their consent to the proposal, and the additional taxation will be levied until the construction of the harbours is completed.

The report of the Russian Minister of Finance explains the great progress in railway construction and management and the regulation of tariff. The network of lines in the Russian Empire now covers a total distance of 36,857 miles, exclusive of the branch through Manchuria, of which 397 miles are already open for traffic from Port Arthur to Moukden. The Minister is especially eloquent on the future blessings and importance of the Siberian Railway, which he considers are obscured from the appreciation of the present generation by the enormous cost of construction, amounting altogether to three-quarters of a milliard roubles.

The *Kobe Herald* of the 28th ultimo says :—

Mr. Suzuki, the Japanese Acting Consul at Korokoff, Saghalien, reported yesterday to the Japanese Government, regarding the question of fishery rights at the island, that the matter has turned out favourably for Japan, the Russian Government having decided to postpone the enforcement of the provisions of the Fishery Law, which imposed restrictions on Japanese fishing interests, until the end of the present year. Of the fishing areas defined by the Law, 126 sections were granted to Japanese last year and will again be allotted to Japanese this year. The fishing areas not designated in the Law will be withheld from persons of every nationality.

Under the heading "Further Significant Movements in Japan" the *Kobe Herald* of the 26th ultimo says :—

The *Toghashi Kan*, torpedo boat tender, left Sasebo for Fusan yesterday afternoon. Commandant Nomura, Naval Staff Officer of the Kure Naval Station, was in Kobe on the 24th instant. He went on board the O.S.K. steamer *Tainan Maru*, and thoroughly inspected her. The inspection showed her to be suitable for service as a cruiser in time of war and arrangements for mounting guns on her will be made immediately. The *Taichu Maru*, sister ship to the *Tainan*, will also be under orders for similar service if necessary. Such is the news published by the *Asahi*. We have not been able to obtain confirmation of this somewhat startling intelligence at the local office of the O.S.K.

The Japanese Standing Squadron proceeded to Kuwa Bay, Yamaguchi Ken, from Kure yesterday. The Squadron will stay there till 5th March next, holding torpedo practice.

ADVERTISEMENTS of two new illustrated weeklies, the *Sphere* and *Spear*, have been prominent in the home journals lately. It is well-known that Mr. Clement Shorter left the *Sketch*, which belongs to the *Illustrated London News* people, because Sir William Ingram paid no attention to his remonstrances against the very musically character it has assumed. Having had to give up the editorship of the *Sketch*, Mr. Shorter determined to start the *Sphere* rolling down the ringing grooves of change, and then the Ingrams imitated his new title as nearly as they dared, and hurled the *Spear* into existence two days before the *Sphere* rolled into sight.

It was almost inevitable that the City of London Imperial Volunteers should acquire nicknames of a more or less jocular description. The one which appears likely to stick, however, is "The Turtle-soupies." Another fairly obvious one is "The Griffin's

Own." A somewhat unkind name for the Inns of Court Volunteers is "The Brifless Brigade," which seems likely to supersede for a while the historic "Devil's Own."—*China Mail*.

THE London correspondent of the *Ceylon Standard* writes :—

It has come to the knowledge of the Secret Intelligence Department that important information, military and naval in character, has come into the hands of the Russian Government lately concerning England's possessions in the East. It is evident that not for a long time has Russia undertaken so vast a survey of our Empire in the East. A careful report on the defences of Ceylon is said to be in the dossier.

THE *N. Y. Public Opinion* of the 1st ultimo says :—According to the latest advices, 204 steamers, aggregating 995,435 tons gross register, have been temporarily withdrawn from ordinary commercial transportation service by the British Admiralty for the transportation of troops and munitions of war to South Africa. It is impossible that there should have been such a sudden diversion of carriers from ordinary to extraordinary use without serious impairment of usual facilities. This is felt perhaps in the mail service between this country and England, as much as in any other direction. This service has been greatly interrupted during the past three or four months, and is liable to be yet more irregular in the months to come.

The *Times* has the following account of a gallant feat :—

In September last, whilst second officer of the steamship *Darius*, disabled in the Indian Ocean, Mr. Reginald Lyon Instone volunteered to take charge of an open boat and proceed to Padang, 650 miles distant, in order to obtain succour for his vessel. This mission he successfully accomplished, in spite of many difficulties, being 13 days in the boat, while for seven days he had no opportunities for making observations as to his position owing to the sun being obscured. On the arrival of Mr. Instone in Calcutta he was presented by the shipmasters in the port with a gold medal, Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, making the presentation, and Mr. Instone has now also been awarded Lloyd's medal for meritorious services "as an honorary acknowledgment of his extraordinary exertions."

In its notice of the South African Blue Book issued on the 30th of January last, the *Times* says :—

Attention should be drawn to a letter from Dr. Dalgliesh enclosed in Sir Alfred Milner's despatch of 5th December, which contains an account of a remarkable conversation held by him with President Steyn and Mr. Fischer on the subject of the commandeering of British subjects in the Orange Free State. Both the President and the Secretary of State absolutely declined to consider themselves bound in this matter by the canons of international law, Mr. Fischer even going so far as to say, "We don't recognise any international law here." The meaning of President Steyn's subsequent denial that British subjects had been commandeered may be gauged by the following extracts from Dr. Dalgliesh's letter :—

I have already told your Excellency that the Free State Government consider almost all Englishmen in the Orange Free State as their burghers. I have told you that I am on the burgher list, and was put on soon after entering the country. I was never asked about it. I never knew I was on until Field-Cornet Raaf commandeered me, and when I protested that I was a British subject he replied : "You own fixed property, and therefore you are a burgher." I have protested since, without avail. I have never voted, nor exercised any burgher rights, nor sworn allegiance, nor done anything in any way that could deprive me of

my rights of a British subject. At the last Presidential election every Englishman in the Orange Free State desired greatly to see Mr. Fraser elected, and I was very much tempted to vote for him, but wisely decided to have nothing to do with the election.

President Steyn says:—"No one is regarded or treated as a burgher who has not been, with his knowledge or consent, put on the burgher list and exercised in elections or otherwise the privilege of a burgher." I reply that this is utterly false. I did not know that my name was on until I was commanded. I never dreamt of the possibility of such a thing. I protested in vain. I never exercised any privileges. I refused them. My name was put on without my knowledge, and it remains on without my consent and in spite of my protests.

The Pall Mall Magazine, which on both its artistic and literary sides fully maintains its position as the best of our English magazines, has an article in its February issue by Mr. Edward Dicey on the causes of the war. The following extracts are interesting:—

DELIBERATE PREPARATION.

As the causes of the war must of necessity have an immense effect in determining the conditions on which alone peace can be safely restored, I think it may be useful to point out the inferences which we are justified in drawing, as to the causes of the war, from the evidence supplied by the initial stages of the campaign. The conclusions to which I have come, after a careful study of the facts, are four in number. The first is that war was inevitable, sooner or later. The second is that the war had been deliberately and willfully prepared for beforehand, by the Boers in the Transvaal and the Free State, and by the Afrikaner Bond in the Cape Colony. The third is that, from a Boer point of view, a war against England, with the object of replacing British by Dutch supremacy throughout the whole of South Africa, was by no means so insane a conception as it appeared to the British public at home. The fourth, and last, is that there can never be any settled peace in South Africa till the Boers have been convinced by the stern teaching of war that the restoration of Dutch ascendancy is a manifest impossibility. Anything which tends to make these conclusions clear will operate to remove any doubts which may still be entertained at home as to the justice of the cause for which we are fighting, and will lessen the danger of our consenting, out of a laudable wish not to press too hardly upon a defeated foe, to any settlement which might be based upon a peace that was no peace.

THE DESIRE FOR WAR.

Very moderate concessions . . . on the part of the Government of Pretoria would have been welcomed most heartily by the vast majority of Englishmen as an excuse for avoiding an ungrateful and, as they then deemed, an unnecessary war. No sane man can say that during the months which elapsed between the collapse of the Bloemfontein Conference and the final rupture of the negotiations between Pretoria and Downing Street there was any popular outcry in favour of war—such an outcry as I am sorry to say I am old enough to remember at the time of the Crimean War, when the force of public opinion, with or without justice, forced the hands of the Aberdeen Ministry after the destruction of the Turkish fleet at Sinope. On the other hand, it is matter of notoriety that the bias of the Court, the Cabinet, the City, and, I believe, even of the Army, was opposed to the idea of any war with South Africa so long as it seemed possible that war might be avoided without national dishonour or detriment to Imperial interests. If, therefore, the willingness of two parties

to go to war had been of necessity an antecedent condition of war, the present war between England and the Transvaal could, I assert without fear of contradiction, have never become an accomplished fact. There was one party alone to the conflict which desired a resort to arms; and that party consisted of the South African Boers.

The Bureau Veritas Monthly List, published on the 1st of February, of wrecks and casualties recorded in December last, announces that 108 sailing vessels were reported as totally lost; 54 by stranding, 5 by collision, 4 by fire; while 8 foundered, 9 were abandoned, 22 were condemned, and 6 were missing. No less than 196 sailing vessels were damaged; 34 by stranding, 49 by collision, 7 by fire, 41 by leaks, and 65 by stress of weather. The steamers totally lost were 31; 17 by stranding, 3 by collision; while 3 foundered, 5 were condemned, and 3 were missing. The steamers damaged were 296; 63 by stranding, 106 by collision, 14 by fire, 9 by leaks, 35 by stress of weather; while 69 reported injury to their engines or boilers. In the whole year 1899, 1,002 sailing vessels were reported as totally lost; 482 by stranding, 50 by collision, 14 by fire; while 56 foundered, 85 were abandoned, 219 were condemned, and 96 were missing. No less than 2,131 sailing vessels were damaged; 455 by stranding, 517 by collision, 50 by fire, 558 by leaks, and 751 by stress of weather. The steamers totally lost were 339; 134 by stranding, 40 by collision, 12 by fire; while 33 foundered, 9 were abandoned, 85 were condemned, and 26 were missing. The steamers damaged were 3,384; 769 by stranding, 958 by collision, 182 by fire, 66 by leaks, 557 by stress of weather; while 852 reported injury to their engines or boilers.

The following notes are from the *Yokohama Eastern World*:—

The irony of fate. An Osaka man, named Kaminura Tokichi has won the government prize of 100 yen for the best designed rat-trap. Just about the same time the government has discontinued paying prizes for captured rats.

Once again the long-suffering agriculturists, whose fields are devastated and crops ruined by the poisonous waters from the Ashio copper mine, have risen in protest, and, assembling to the number of over a thousand on the 13th instant, undertook a march *en masse* to the authorities in the capital to lay their complaint before they seek redress. On their march the farmers were joined by some 2,000 more. The Tatebayashi police endeavoured to disperse the army of rustics but failed. On reaching Kawasata, however, they were met by a force of 300 gendarmes, who endeavoured to prevent them from crossing the bridge over the Tonegawa. The gendarmes appear from the reports to have acted with great brutality, fiercely attacking the farmers, of whom no less than 300 were wounded, 11, it is said, mortally. They were robbed of their blankets and everything they carried with them and compelled to retreat. We are glad to note that the action of the police authorities in this affair has not escaped attention in the Diet. On Wednesday, Mr. Tanaka introduced two questions in the House of Representatives—why the police in large numbers had assaulted innocent sufferers with weapons, and why the authorities had ignored the previous decision of the Diet and allowed the farmers to be poisoned by the waters of the mine? Surely it is time this longstanding scandal were removed.

The following amusing story is told by the *Washington Post*:—

John Barrett, the ex-minister to Siam, who is charging that Senator Hoar's speech upon the Filipino question gave Aguinaldo encouragement when telegraphed from here, is a graduate of Dartmouth College. Thereby hangs a story which was told yesterday in the Senate marble room.

Barrett was invited to a Dartmouth dinner, and was, of course, called upon for a speech. As everybody knows, he has a rather exaggerated idea of his own importance. So he began, in stilted fashion, to relate the prominent part he took in the Orient during and after the war with Spain.

"When I was in the cabin of that magnificent vessel, the *Olympia*," began Barrett, "where I had been called to consult with that brave man, George Dewey, in order that we might protect together the interests of our common country, the greatest republic which the world has ever known, Dewey placed his hand upon my shoulder, and solemnly said to me:—"

"Who stole Widow Perkins' squash pie?"

The voice was the voice of an old classmate of Barrett. It broke upon the speech with the force of an exploding shell. Instantly all the Dartmouth men solemnly answered:

"John Barrett."

The ex-Minister to Siam grew red and embarrassed, floundered through a few more sentences, and sat down.

The Globe of the 30th of January says:— It is reported from Antwerp that large consignments of war material are leaving there almost weekly for Japan. Much of it has been manufactured in Germany, and some by Belgian houses; but special instructions appear to have been given by the Japanese authorities that all should be shipped from Antwerp. From this and other indications, which are numerous, it may be concluded that the Mikado's Government thinks the possibility of war with Russia is at least worth providing for; and that renders the situation in China the more interesting just now.

The Globe says:—

It will, no doubt, cause considerable surprise to many people to learn that 400 waggons and 5,000 baggage animals accompanied General Buller's forces in their advance to the Upper Tugela. The line of transport extended, we are told, for nineteen miles in length, and necessarily delayed the forward movement to a serious extent. But, as Major Yate showed in the interesting lecture he delivered last night at the United Service Institution, it may be safely affirmed that never before was a British force of equal magnitude so lightly encumbered with impediment. In 1812, General Nott required 10,000 camels, in addition to an immense number of smaller animals, when marching from Candahar to Cabul, although his command numbered no more than 7,000 fighting men. In 1880, although Lord Roberts made heroic efforts to diminish this difficulty when proceeding to the relief of Candahar, he had to allow one baggage animal, 10,000 in all, for each officer and soldier. Our commanders in the Tirah campaign must have been hampered to an even greater extent, as 24,000 animals were needed for a force of 17,000 combatants. It has to be remembered, too, when making comparison between Indian and African campaigns, that every camel represents, in carrying power, several ponies or mules. If, therefore, General Buller could have obtained and made use of "the ship of the desert," his transport train would have been very largely diminished. Whether, in the time to come, motors and traction engines will give greater mobility to our troops, will probably become a question of burning interest among military experts after the termination of the present war. But for the time being, Lord Roberts and the Generals under him have nothing for it but to make the best use of the means at their disposal by reducing transport to the greatest possible extent. General Buller has, it is clear, adopted that policy with great advantage; had his baggage train been on the Indian scale, it would probably have extended for twice nineteen miles.

Miscellaneous Articles.

OUR NEIGHBOURS AND OURSELVES.

9th March.

MR. J. LAWRENCE has written an admirable letter which appears in a recent issue of the *Daily Telegraph* in which he compares our operations in South Africa with similar operations by other Powers in late years. "One is tempted," he says, "to ask how Great Britain compares with other Great Powers in the first stages of their campaigns since, say, the last great war in 1870. Adversity often seems to be borne more cheerfully when it is experienced by others equally with ourselves." This was written, of course, before the great change in the fortunes of the war which followed the arrival on the scene of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener.

Beginning with the war of 1870, Mr. Lawrence shows that the Germans went into that war armed with the needle-gun, which was entirely outclassed by the French *chassepot*. "In a collection of papers," he says, "which the late Sir Joseph Whitworth (the gun-maker) gave me in 1884, I find him saying in 1870 that the range of the *chassepot* was 1,800 paces and that of the needle-gun 600 to 700 paces; and thus, the Germans in all their charges had to traverse 1,200 paces before their aim could be used to some purpose.' Yet no one heard of demands for Moltke or Bismarck to be gibbeted. However good the German artillery was in 1870, it is even in that arm to-day admittedly inferior to the French."

If we turn to the Russian war with Turkey in 1877, and re-read the history of Plevna and the whole campaign, we shall find that the Russians cannot throw any stones at us. They too were fighting a continuous foe, and we have to send nearly everything to the other end of the world. The *Daily News* correspondent, one of the best authorities of the day, summed up the whole campaign by saying: "The Russians entirely misconceived the magnitude of the enterprise," and to make matters worse, "their Generals were notoriously incompetent."

"Perhaps Austria's campaign in 1877-78," Mr. Lawrence continues, "in attempting to suppress the revolt in Bosnia and Herzegovina presents nearer conditions for a comparison with our task in the Transvaal than the wars of 1870 and 1877. With a modern and reorganised army of 800,000 men (war footing) in 1877, they took a year and eight months to succeed. Instead of an occupation needing only 20,000 men, they ultimately had to mobilise about 250,000 men, before peace was made." Northern Natal, where Buller has been operating, is just as moun-

tainous as Bosnia and Herzegovina, and while the frontier of the latter principalities is only 190 miles from Vienna, Ladysmith is a month's journey by sea and rail from London. "The Bosnians had no Uitlanders from whom to draw nearly six to seven millions sterling in one year (in taxes, railways, and dynamite monopolies) with which to buy modern artillery and hire European officers, nor had they eighteen years of unhindered preparations and training. Contrast this Austrian campaign of twenty months with our three months over the Transvaal War, mainly spent not in fighting, but in shipping men and supplies, collected from all parts of the world, 7,000 miles."

Mr. Lawrence goes on to say that it is not necessary to recall how the war operations of friendly countries like Italy and Greece have fared recently, but we may fairly turn to the Philippines and see how the Americans have been getting on against the Filipinos. There are no finer soldiers in the world than the Americans, and no armies could be more up-to-date in their warlike appliances. The Filipinos, says Mr. Lawrence, have neither mountain fastnesses, artillery, money, nor skilled foreign mercenaries to aid them, as the Boers have. But they are helped, as the Boers are, by the natural difficulties of their country and their familiarity with it. And so, "though the naval battle of Manila was fought on May the 1st, 1898—twenty months ago—the long struggle still lingers, with nearly 80,000 American troops in the field. All this proves," says Mr. Lawrence, "if it proves anything, that most countries are pretty much alike in time of sudden war. This Transvaal war, in one respect, is even necessarily more difficult and slower than the campaigns alluded to because of the transport. It is not alone on the sea, or in South Africa, that this is felt. During the week before last Woolwich Arsenal dispatched fifty-two special trains of war material, and waggons could not be obtained from the railway companies quick enough or suitable enough to carry supplies from other places besides Woolwich to ports of shipment. In South Africa the railway facilities are worse still. The shells for the siege train alone, which reached South Africa a few days ago, weighed over 3,000 tons, which would need over thirty trains on the railway portion from Durban, of twenty-five waggons each carrying four tons, not an easy job in a country where single lines, severe gradients, sharp curves, and scanty rolling stock are the rule and not the exception." The enforced surrender of General Cronje shows that the difficulties of transport are not confined to the British side.

Mr. Lawrence goes on to warn critics of our operations in South

Africa not to lose all sense of perspective. We should not exaggerate our checks nor underestimate them. The Boers have not been so very successful, even with the advantage of first blood. "Their career of invasion has been checked and their army, as a French strategist points out, has been broken into sections, rendering them liable to defeat, sooner or later." This prophecy seems to be in the way of early fulfilment. Mr. Lawrence writes very sensibly in conclusion on the subject of the reforms for which everybody is calling. He says:—

"The War Office system wants attacking more than individuals. The status of the artillery and scientific branches in the Army, and the engineering branch of the Navy, should be more liberally recognised, and not be denied any longer a full share of initiative. Some relaxation of the checks and control exercised by Parliament and the Treasury may have to be introduced. You cannot make old-type machinery of Wellington's day do modern work and in modern time. No head of a private engineering establishment could keep his works up-to-date or live for one year if he were trammelled as the scientific branches of the Army and Navy are with obsolete regulations and traditions, and possibly prejudices. We must therefore adopt a policy for the moment of 'Fight first and talk after.' When we win, then we can go to work and rip the War Office methods to pieces."

AIR SHIPS IN WAR.

10th March.

THE navigation of the air has always borne something of the romantic about it, due probably to the early effect of the wonders of the Arabian Nights upon childish imaginations. In reality there is nothing more to wonder at in the science of aeronautics than in that of navigation. Both depend on knowledge of nature's laws, the great difference being that while we have a firm grip of the one the other is still something of a will-o'-the-wisp, which, however, we are pursuing in two distinct ways.

Man in this, as in so many other pursuits, exhibits his opposing poles of thought. One school bases all its effort on the belief that success can only follow experiments with substances lighter than the air. In a word, their goal is a successful balloon of some sort or other. The other—there are really only two—hopes to solve the problem by the employment of machines heavier than the air. Their type is the living bird, which with the power of its wings soars at will, bearing successfully many pounds in weight. This system, known as aviation, depends on aeroplanes and such-like contrivances, worked by motors which the planes must lift.

For the present France and Germany represent the two opposing systems. In the Zeppelin airship, now in course of construction in the Boden See, buoyancy is to be maintained and regulated by means of gas. Professor Dewar's success in liquifying and even in solidifying hydrogen may in the future have much effect in the solution of this very difficult problem. In size the Zeppelin airship will be immense. She is to be driven by a 15-horsepower steam-engine, which will propel two pairs of four-bladed screws at an estimated rate of 20 miles an hour in calm weather. She is being constructed of aluminium, and is cylindrical in shape.

The French experiments are with an "Avion." Aeroplanes consisting of great wings of gauze and silk are to supply the lifting power, while propulsion is to be secured by means of two fan propellers, the whole to be worked "by a steam engine of great weight and power for its size."

Even under the ordinary circumstances of peace and prosperity, international goodwill, and friendly feeling, such experiments would be watched with great interest from all parts of the earth. With a great war going on, with angry feelings roused on both sides, with Anglo-phobia rampant, and bloodthirsty aspirations openly avowed, any success would become a matter of world-wide talk on the instant. Where would the fleets of the greatest seapower be if squadrons of aerial messengers could soar over them and drop annihilating bombs from inaccessible heights? What would become of fortified cities, of capitals, of docks, of arsenals, and the whole present substratum of power? Until rival forces could meet amongst the clouds war would be at an end, and the ruler of the air might become the master of the universe.

There is still an element of romance in the subject. But for all practical purposes we have as yet got no further than the captive balloon which has done good service in South Africa. Reconnaissance, observation of the enemy's movements and positions, signalling, and such other aids to knowledge it has well supplied. The secretive Boer must have viewed with much chagrin the rounded globe with its argus eyes looking down upon his laager, counting his men, his horses, and his guns. How many slyly contrived plots were thus discovered we shall not know until the war is over. But when hills no longer afford a cover, nor earthen mounds a screen, it is plain there may be near at hand an entire revolution in the art of making war.

Topographical work may be done from balloons which could not be otherwise attempted. Instantaneous and telemetric photography will transfer in the twinkling of an eye a

bird's-eye view of a whole position, showing its strength and its weakness. Against attack from above there are two defences, and two only—counter attack, which means battles in the air, and overhead protection on a large scale.

Fortunately the world is free for five years at least from the threat of this new infliction, for in the final act embodying the results of the great Peace Conference from which the Czar hoped so much, and the rest of the world so little, there is a declaration signed by Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the United States of America, Mexico, France, Greece, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Turkey, to the effect that the throwing of explosives and projectiles from balloons or by other analogous means is prohibited.

It will be noticed that amongst the signatories there are but two of the great European Powers. Neither Great Britain, Germany, Austria, nor Italy appears on the list. Yet we believe that our statement that the world has for at least five years spoken against actual warfare from above may stand. There were countries who did not sign the agreement abolishing privateering. Spain and the United States were amongst them. Yet neither resorted to such questionable aid when the tug-of-war came. The public opinion of the world, when based on humanitarianism and not on interest, still has weight.

Five years is, however, too short a period for much congratulation. More than that will be needed for experimental purposes. What then? Will the prohibition be renewed, or will the air be left to him who can conquer it?

We are on the eve of the realisation of wide-reaching possibilities. From all that can be seen at the moment land warfare between equal opponents has reached that point beyond which it is next to impossible for either side to pass. Naval warfare, too, has possibly attained its highest point on the surface in the form of ironclads, destroyers, and torpedoes. The next advance will probably come from below the surface, unless in the meantime man attains mastery over the air. That of itself must change everything, and the enigma of the future was never more tantalising than at the present moment.

LIFE AND VIGOUR FOR THE HAIR.

The only article which really possesses nutritious virtues for stimulating, and restoring, the hair, is ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL. It removes scurf, harshness, dryness, prevents the hair being injured by illness, and should always be used for children's hair; no other article imparts such a beautiful and dressy appearance to the hair as ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL, and if you have never used it, you are strongly advised to procure a bottle without delay, and continue using it; also in a golden colour for fair hair. Sold by Stores and Chemists.

(3b) alt. 21my-900 247 22nd May, 1899.

BEFORE THE RATEPAYERS' MEETING.

12th March.

FROM the list of resolutions published it does not seem that to-morrow's meeting will be a very exciting one, and while there are topics in the Council's Report for 1899 on which many ratepayers are perhaps anxious for more light, they will probably find this provided in the Chairman's explanatory introductions. The first three resolutions to be proposed by the Council are absolutely formal; the fourth deals with the report and accounts, and the prosperity they disclose should undoubtedly assist their passage. There are many ratepayers, we know, as recent correspondence in our columns has shown, much and we think justly discontented with the conclusion that the Council has come to in the matter of the long-drawn-out Telephone negotiations. The resolution under which the Council have acted, No. 4 of the special meeting on the 17th of October last, is as loosely drawn as these resolutions too often are, but it probably meant to give the Council full power to bring the question to an issue. It is understood that this is done, though we do not know that the contract with the Mutual Company is actually signed; but enough is settled to make it too late now to reopen the matter. We rely on the directorate of the Company to carry out their promise to give us as speedily as possible an efficient service. The Chairman will doubtless explain the omission from the Council's Report of any but a casual reference to the recent re-assessment of the land in the Settlement.

The fifth resolution provides for the assessment of the land in the Extension, and there can be no opposition to this; even the argumentative people who have refused to pay their taxes while anxious to participate in the benefits of municipal rule cannot object to having their property assessed. The sixth resolution is for the establishment of a Chinese public school; as we have already said, we regard this as the beginning of the fulfilment of a duty, and we trust that the resolution will be carried, and that thus a large and comprehensive scheme for the education of the Chinese in our midst will be inaugurated. The seventh resolution deals with the budget, and there should be little objection to a budget which shows a surplus of Tls. 95,000. Rather more than half of this goes to pay off the deficit on the extraordinary budget of 1899; and nearly all the rest, with Tls. 130,000 to be raised if necessary by debentures, is devoted to public works, including Tls. 50,000 for roads. These are all the resolutions to be brought forward at the ordinary meeting by the Council. Then comes a resolu-

tion No. 8 to be brought forward by a ratepayer, instructing, not authorising, the Council to expend the sum of Tls. 14,000 in acquiring the land for a road to the Hills. This sum is only for the land; it is said that the road will cost Tls. 150,000 more, which is a large sum for Shanghai to spend on a luxury. The ninth resolution will, we hope, be carried without opposition. It is generally recognised that Mr. McMurray's case is a hard one, and considering the great value of the Privy Council's decision to the municipality, the latter can well afford to pay the costs incurred by Mr. McMurray in defending the appeal.

The annual meeting is to be followed by a special meeting called for the purpose of adding a By-law to the Land Regulations, empowering the Council to license and tax Fire Insurance Offices in the Settlement. We have already expressed our views on the way in which this proposition should be treated by the ratepayers, and we see no reason to modify or change the opinions we expressed on the 5th instant in this column.

THE RETURNS OF TRADE FOR 1899.

12th March.

IN our notice a fortnight ago of the Customs Returns for the fourth quarter of last year we gave the figures of the total Customs revenue for the past ten years. The first part of the *Returns of Trade and Trade Reports for 1899*, issued on Saturday from the Statistical Department, carries these figures three years further back, i.e., to 1887, when the revenue was Hk. Tls. 20,541,399. We may repeat that in 1899 it was Hk. Tls. 26,661,460, the previous maximum having been in 1891, when it was Hk. Tls. 23,518,020. This is a very fallacious indication of the growth of the foreign trade of China in the same period, for its value was very nearly twice as great in 1899 as it was in 1891. The following figures showing the annual value of the trade are very interesting:—

Year.	Hk. Tls.
1887	188,123,877.
1891	234,951,712.
1895	314,989,926.
1898	368,616,483.
1899	460,533,288.

The Report on the Foreign Trade of China for 1899 is again the work of Mr. F. E. Taylor, the Statistical Secretary, and he is again able to write a very cheering account of the commercial situation. "The foreign trade of China," he begins, "during the year 1899 was characterised by an astonishing development, and merchants, both foreign and native, made handsome profits in almost every branch. The political situation, although still unsettled, gave rise to no immediate fears; exchange re-

mained remarkably steady; the rice crop was abundant; the spring weather during the critical period for the silk-worms was unusually favourable; and, except for a recrudescence of piracy on the West River, there were no disturbances to check trade." We have constantly contended that the want of means of communication is a far greater obstacle to the extension of trade than all the inland taxation in China, and our contention is fully borne out by what Mr. Taylor says. It is, of course, unfair to the Customs to give Mr. Taylor's report in full in our columns, but it is quite worthy of the widest reproduction; his last year's report was quoted as an authority all over the world, and this one promises to be made known as widely. After giving the figures of the total foreign trade of China, he says: "The internal trade of the country was also unusually brisk, and the important changes which will be brought about by the extension of railways have already been proved. Newchwang and Tientsin have promptly responded to the stimulus of better means of communication, and the trade at those ports has leapt forward, although the former suffered from a severe outbreak of plague. It is found that immediately trains begin to run, districts through which there was comparatively little traffic, such as between Paoting and Peking, suddenly commence to hum with life and activity, and there springs up a flourishing trade which was formerly undreamt of and impossible for want of cheap transport. The Russian line has been completed as far north as Moukden, and the extraordinary richness of Manchuria will soon become evident." The section of the Lu-Han railway between Paoting and Chingting (70 miles) is to be opened within six months. There are heavy engineering difficulties on the southern part of the line, but the rails have been laid for 24 miles northwards from Hankow and within two years it is hoped that trains will be running to Sinyang (105 miles), and that the whole line of 720 miles will be open in five years. Yingkou, the real port of Newchwang, will shortly be connected by rail with Peking. The other proposed railways, owing to the obstruction of the authorities, are making very slow progress, but we understand that the whole of the Peking Syndicate's capital has been subscribed, and there is likely to be a sudden and important spurt in China as soon as the end of the war in South Africa comes in sight. Santuao, a splendid harbour, Nanking, Tsingtao (Kiaochou), and Yochou have been provided with Custom-houses during the year. The opening of the last port is officially considered the opening of Hunan to foreign trade; but the Custom-house and port are some miles

from Yochou, and are only nominally in Hunan at all.

The revenue was larger under every heading than in 1898, and as the value of silver was also higher, the Chinese Government may well congratulate itself. The year was further memorable for the abolition of Coast Trade Duty Deposits on the Yangtze, after over thirty years' agitation. It is noted that, excluding opium, the revenue from imports represented an *ad valorem* duty of less than three per cent, instead of the five per cent which is supposed to be charged. Attention is again drawn to the expansion of the import trade that may be expected when more railways are built. China is naturally a richer country with a larger, a more industrious, and a richer population than India; but at present the exports from India are worth three times the exports from China.

The import of opium increased by twenty per cent and the prices were exceedingly remunerative. It is supposed that this is due to the native crop being bad. The trade in cotton goods which had been stationary for three years jumped from a value of Tls. 77,600,000 to Tls. 103,500,000. "The feature most worthy of note was the continued advance in American and Japanese goods, the latter especially showing very rapid development." There was a great advance, too, in fancy cotton goods, which come rather under the head of luxuries, as there was in such comforts and luxuries as candles, cigars and cigarettes, clocks and watches, flour, window-glass, lamps, matches, needles, perfumery, soap, sugar, and umbrellas.

The value of the exports of China was more than double what it was in 1890, and it will go on increasing by leaps and bounds as the means of communication improve. "Exports are at present checked by price and inferior quality—the former due to cost of carriage and heavy taxation, the latter to adulteration or faulty methods of preparation for foreign markets. . . . The complaints made by exporters have been laid before the Government, and in view of the necessity of increasing the export trade to meet expenditure abroad, it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to teach the people that practices which may bring a temporary profit are opposed to their future interests." This is a lesson which still requires impressing on the Japanese also. The export of black tea is slowly reviving, and America is taking more green tea. "The tea trade is not dead, and the adoption of improved methods of cultivation and manufacture would soon make China a serious competitor with India and Ceylon, especially as the closing of the Indian mints has resulted in giving China the advantage in exchange." It was a re-

markedly prosperous year for silk, so good that it is likely to check the attempts made to persuade the Chinese authorities to deal with the disease in the worms by the adoption of the Pasteur system. To the total tonnage, inward and outward, which has doubled since 1890, Great Britain contributed 59 per cent, China 24 per cent, Japan 7 per cent, and the rest of the world together 10 per cent. We conclude a very inadequate notice with the following paragraph: "*Treasure*.—The recorded movements of gold and silver bullion between China and foreign countries were as follows: Gold was exported to the value of Hk. Tls. 8,335,815, giving a net export . . . of Hk. Tls. 7,639,779; and the net import of silver was Hk. Tls. 1,271,444. There is little doubt that some of the silver sent away to Hongkong and Macao and to Port Arthur found its way back to Chinese territory. Of the gold exported the bulk went to Japan, only Hk. Tls. 2,468,151 going to Europe."

THE EMPEROR.

13th March.

WHEN H. M. Kuang Hsü was seen last year by foreigners, they found him looking delicate, but not ill in health, and there seemed no reason why, if he were allowed to, he should not have a fairly long reign. We regret to learn that the foreigners who saw him at the audience on the 19th ultimo saw a very decided change for the worse in his condition. The Diplomatic Body very properly asked to see the Emperor alone, to show their recognition of the fact that he is still the rightful sovereign of China, and to congratulate him on the New Year. They were shocked to find him looking sick and worn-out, with his face of a grey-yellowish colour, while his dim eyes lay deep in their sockets, encircled by dark lines. His hands were trembling and his movements unsteady and apparently painful. Only time will reveal whether the Emperor's melancholy condition is caused by the disease that is undermining his system, or is the consequence of neglect and lack of care and comfort during the very severe winter which Peking has been experiencing. There may be even more sinister causes at work. What seems certain is that H. M. Kuang Hsü has been brought to a condition in which he is entirely unfit for work, and unable to assume any energetic attitude for the vindication of his right to govern, or to oppose the antagonistic faction in the Palace.

To mark the position taken by the Diplomatic Body with regard to the actual government in Peking, a request was made in the name only of the wives of the Ministers that they should have an audience of the Em-

press Dowager on the 8th instant. There was to be a dinner and a theatrical performance and it was thus clearly defined as a social function devoid of any official character.

In extenuation of the vengeful decrees lately published in the Empress Dowager's name it is urged that they are not her work at all, but are the production of Kang Yi and one or two others of the reactionaries who have control of her pen at present: but that they are repugnant to Jung Lu, and will be annulled as soon as Viceroy Liu K'un-yi, who is now one of the strongest men in the Empire, can get the ear of his imperial mistress. H.E. Liu is old and not in very good health, but he is a very able man and very sound in his views, and he has at his back the latent strength of the most politically important province in China, the nursery of great administrators, Hunan. We may add that rumours are rife in Nanking that the reactionaries there are planning to prevent H. E. Liu from getting an audience of the Empress Dowager at all.

RUSKIN.

13th March.

THE death of the venerable John Ruskin will have caused many a pang in the English-speaking world, for it may be doubted if a more lovable personality has appeared in the history of English letters, or whether any soul in that noble army ever led a life in closer harmony with the loftiest ideals. We so recently referred to Mr. Ruskin's beneficence in the disposal of his art collection, and large private fortune—he long ago resolved to die worth nothing—that we need not now recur to it. In the unique and delightful *Præterita*, the Master sets forth his early life. Born in 1819, the little boy got from a somewhat Spartan mother order, obedience, faith, and a habit of fixed attention; everything indeed but the tangible expression of love: he tells us that at the mature age of seven, he regarded his parents as he did the sun and moon—necessary and benign influences, but quite detached from his sympathy. At twelve he had laid the foundations of his future style in a consummate knowledge of the Bible which he had then read through six times. His next birthday was epoch-marking, he received as a gift Rogers's *Italy*, illustrated by the immortal Turner, whose Homer the boy was to become. In 1839 he went up to Oxford where he took the Newdigate for English verse, though, like many a genius, he did little in the Schools. At the age of twenty-four he published Vol. I of the *Modern Painters*, and in spite of certain crudities which showed the novice, at once revealed himself as a new power in literature and an art-

critic of the first magnitude. In this famous book Ruskin freely assailed great and established reputations, and impugned nearly all the accepted criteria of landscape. He mauled the Flemish School and hurled his philippics at Claude Lorraine, the Poussins and Co., with a vehemence hitherto unknown in art literature.

The young Oxonian made heroic pleas for truth instead of convention in the painter's art; proposed new canons, and with the cogency of genius and conviction showed how Turner and the English landscapists conformed to them. The book was as much a treatise in ethics as in criticism. Every succeeding volume of the work showed finer insight, more profound analysis, higher imagination and better style: the new critic was quickly promoted to the honour of being quoted in the text books of the Moral Science men. The *Seven Lumps of Architecture* in 1849, and the *Stones of Venice* in 1853 treated the builders' art as the first book had treated that of the painters.

We might dilate on Ruskin's private life were the occasion meet; it was simple and noble throughout. His talk apart from art, on which it seemed inspired, was quiet, unobtrusive and quaint, the efflorescence of a lively nature. He was wont to say that every lady should be "a princess and a washerwoman," and once after a fine rhapsody on the Alps he remarked that the next best thing he saw in Switzerland were the dainty white sleeves of his tidy little mother. He was a child worshipper and child worshipped: the best letter of his that we ever saw was a manuscript to a small boy thanking him for a well-drawn horse, though it was run hard by his own description of another dainty epistle addressed to the Marchioness of Lorne who had gaily bantered her "dear Professor" for being seen at an Alhambra ballet. He was himself a rare draughtsman though an indifferent colourist: his brilliance as a writer has to some extent obscured his personal art: some of the plates in the first edition of the *Painters* are marvels of delicacy and beauty.

If Ruskin's great books have a fault, it lies in our opinion in wealth of detail; one cannot see the forest for the trees: in the amplitude of a minor point one sometimes fails to remember its bearing on the whole. The *Painters* is, we think, his greatest and best work: while it will ever be invaluable to the reflective reader for the world of new ideas it opens up, it is largely *caviare* to the hasty man unless he takes the book with him to the National Gallery and to the Dutch collections in Grosvenor House and Dulwich. Most of his later and smaller works are easy and delightful reading; and, thanks to Mr. Allen and the wonderful press at Orpington village, are now

beautiful and cheap. The Master long ago quarrelled with the whole world of publishers—"Now Barrabas was a publisher"—and for years his works were unprocurable. *The Two Paths*, the *Crown of Olives*, *Unto this Last*, and above all *Sesame and Lilies* may be urgently commended to unfledged Ruskinians: that odd mixture the *Fors Clavigera*, letters addressed to a Sunderland working man on every conceivable subject, should be left till the reader has judgment of his own and is not likely to be overborne by the mere eccentricity of genius. We think the great teacher has been wafted to the stars by the light of the *Seven Lamps* and in the effulgence of the *Painters*.

Stella said that Swift could write well about a broomstick, and Fanny Kemble, a good judge, has put it on record that Ruskin's description of a lime-heap by the road side is one of the best bits of prose in our language. Possessing both insight and an unsurpassed faculty for literary expression, Ruskin had a unique power in transfusing beauty, physical and moral, into the things of everyday life. The petals of a dog rose, a pebble, a page of Sir Walter's most slipshod prose, the wrack of a flying cloud, were taken up, put in the focus of genius, and made to convey not only artistic information but moral and spiritual lessons. There is nothing like it in our literature though the German Jean Paul has something akin to it in an elephantine way. Ruskin truly hears trumpet tones in trees, makes books from the running brooks, preaches fine sermons from (precious) stones and finds good in everything except in steam, the democracy, modern economics and the Impressionist school in art. This brings us to the limitations of the great teacher.

Vehemence was a strong characteristic of Ruskin's genius: he had not the calm sanity and Catholic tolerance of the supremely great—of Shakespeare, of Goethe. His demerits arose in the excess of momentum generated by his virtues, his orbit was ever swinging across the happy *via media* of sobriety. Early in life he attached himself to Carlyle, who wrote to Emerson: "No other man in England has in him the hatred of iniquity, falseness, and baseness that Ruskin has." One might almost say that Ruskin was the only contemporary whom the irascible old Sage never lampooned. The young man followed the old one too far; he became the reviler of Political Economy, the apologist of tyranny. Then like all prophets who too often denounce woe to their fellow men he occasionally mistook his prejudices and dislikes for the divine afflatus, and rattled out hocus pocus under the delusion that it was inspiration. Ruskin's insight in art and literature was profound, but outside of these

it was less satisfactory; he never appreciated the fine humanitarianism of his day, and was ever down on demos prophesying evil things of him. On some subjects he lacked the saving grace of sympathy, and that superb self-confidence and egotism, which carried him so far in art criticism left him in the realms of social science naked but unashamed. The *ira vatium* is a poor solvent of difficulties like ours: the termagant makes a poor show either as wife, mother, or social seer; we fear Ruskin illustrates the latter point though we grant that his anger had noble origin. Even young men will remember how far this Rage took him in his memorable castigation of Mr. Whistler, for which that eccentric genius took him into the Law Courts, and had him mulcted in one shilling plus very heavy costs. Ruskin pressed forward towards Truth so strenuously that he forgot the elusive nature of the goddess. Mat. Arnold saw more clearly than Ruskin: "To try and approach truth on one side after another, not to persist in pressing forward with violence and self-will—only thus may mortals hope to gain vision of the mysterious goddess, whom we shall never see except in outline. He who fights impetuously towards her in his own one favoured line is destined to run his head into the folds of the black robe in which she is robed."

We have left ourselves little space to say anything of Ruskin's style and status in our literature. As all good style should be, Ruskin's was a reflex of the man and his mind. There is nothing like it in English: it has nothing in common with the fine verbal mosaic of Stevenson, the virtuosity of Pater, the force and polished urbanity of Newman, the virility of Froude, the antithetic brilliance of Thomas Babington, the illumination-by-flash and the epigram of Meredith: its charm lies in its ease, simplicity, and clearness; it is never magniloquent but always clear, limpid, musical, taking both the eye and ear of the reader, affecting him like poetry. In fact Ruskin's prose is verse minus measure: it has cadence and rhythm and is marked by fine assonance. Many good judges deem it the noblest prose not only of our time but of our language. It will live because it is the vehicle of a great subject and exalts the mind and emotions just as poetry does. We have often thought we saw a curious resemblance between the literary status of Rousseau and Ruskin. Both sought for primal truth, both boldly attacked conventional ideas, and advocated higher ideals; the writings of both palpitate with the joy of life: their books are alive, their styles perfervid, clear, and exquisitely simple. Even if the reader keep his balance and is not carried away by their vehemence, he has the intoxicating effect

of high altitudes; the prospects are glorious and the ozone stirs his blood. We refrain from the obvious contrast in the lives and characters of the two men. We believe that Posterity, the highest appellate court on this side of Heaven, will sustain the judgment of our time—that Ruskin's life and works alike will entitle him to the admiration of succeeding ages.

AFTER THE RATEPAYERS' MEETING.

14th March.

THE Council and the ratepayers must be congratulated on the outcome of yesterday's meeting. Everything they proposed was carried, and everything ratepayers proposed and the Council did not oppose was carried, nor was anything unpleasant said about telephones—thin ice over which the Chairman of the Council skated lightly. It was on the whole a dull meeting, and the indications in the morning were that it would be a long one; but the speakers were happily more businesslike and less prolix in the afternoon, and though nearly all the standing orators were heard, the meeting was got through in reasonable time, and no harm was done to any of the resolutions either by those who supported or those who opposed them.

The first thing that seriously checked the even tenor of the chairman's way was a long and very laboured speech by Mr. Drummond, pointing out the illegality of the Council's action in collecting taxes from residents in the Extension before those taxes had been formally authorised at a ratepayers' meeting. He professed himself entirely disinterested in the matter, and he did not seem to question the practical justice of the Council's action; it was the principle he objected to. If there is one thing that ratepayers dislike it is to be involved in a long purely academic discussion with no practical end in view; for though Mr. Drummond concluded with an amendment to "disallow" the three sums collected illegally by the Council, it did not appear that he was seriously anxious that the money collected should be paid back. He spoke as the champion of legality in the abstract, and ratepayers' meetings have little sympathy with abstract ideas. Mr. Campbell seconded his amendment. Mr. Anderson had little difficulty in answering Mr. Drummond. He pointed out that the Council's action was supported by law as far as regarded the leading nationalities here, and he asked if the Council should have waited for the passing of a budget before taking over and administering the Extension. He quoted the remarks made by the former Chairman, Mr. Fearon, in June last year, in which he announced the Council's intention to

take over the Extension and collect taxes from the 1st of July last, an intention to which no-one made any objection at the time, or subsequently. He also quoted from a very pertinent speech made by Edward Cunningham, no mean authority, in 1863, under somewhat similar circumstances. He asked if Mr. Drummond wanted the taxes paid back. The only reason why a portion of the land tax had not been collected was that the survey was still incomplete. At the close of a really vigorous speech he reminded Mr. Drummond that at the request of ratepayers a special Extension Budget was issued last year, and no objection was made to it. Mr. Drummond adhered to his worship of abstract legality and objected to Mr. Fearon's remarks as not being of any authority. Mr. Anderson added that it might well be held that the Extension of the Settlement brought the new area within the operation of the budget law passed early in 1899. Mr. Campbell said that no honourable Extension ratepayer would want his money back—Mr. Anderson caused some laughter by saying that two or three had done so—and proposed to alter the amendment to the effect that the obnoxious taxes were "voluntary contributions." The Council would have none of the amendment, even amended, and on being put to the meeting it was lost by a very large majority, and the resolution, No. IV, was passed, as was No. V, providing for the assessment of the Extension.

Resolution VI came on after the adjournment and was proposed by Mr. Anderson in an extremely well-conceived and moderate speech. It was promptly opposed by Mr. Nils Möller, on the grounds that the education of the Chinese is outside our province; that there are many good private schools already; that the scheme would only benefit wealthy Chinese; that there are many foreigners in Hongkew who find it a hard enough task to educate their own children; and that he spoke with the authority of forty years' residence in Shanghai. Mr. Drummond's main objection was that the middle class here are very wealthy; the people requiring help are the lowest class, the labourers; it is they who need education, and education diminishes crime. Dr. Muirhead was very glad to see the spirit of sympathy among us; the Chinese are practically our subjects, and as their rulers it is our duty to look after their education and help the natives round us in every way. He spoke with an experience of more than fifty years. He added that by grants-in-aid we should take advantage of the work being done by mission schools, at which two thousand pupils are now being educated. Dr.

Edkins pointed to the example of Scotland, whose pre-eminence in the world, commercial, political, and military, was the fruit of her school and university system. Our duty was to lead the Chinese in the path of progress, high and low alike. Mr. Campbell had very grave doubts, but was in favour of the principle and disagreed with all the proposed details. Something must be done for the poor as well as the well-to-do; he would admit to the proposed school by examination, the details to be left to the Educational Committee. Mr. Kingsmill agreed with everything that had been said, and began to read a chapter on primary education from Dr. Arthur Smith's *Village Life in China*. At this the meeting became very impatient, and he brought his arguments, which seemed to be in favour of improved primary education, to a close. Mr. Anderson expressed the satisfaction of the Council at the reception that had been given to the resolution. The school was not intended for wealthy Chinese, but for those too poor to pay for the proper education of their children; all details, however, might be safely left to the Committee to be appointed. The resolution, No. VI, was carried by a large majority.

The Budget resolution, No. VII, was carried *nem. con.* after it had been explained that the Thibet Road bridge, which at present has no connection at either end, is to have approaches made to it. Mr. Scott then brought up Resolution VIII, as to the purchase of land for the road to the Hills. He was ably supported by Mr. Campbell. Mr. Drummond suggested a width of forty instead of thirty feet, but nobody noticed the suggestion. Mr. Anderson gave the arguments *pro* and *con* with a considerable leaning to the *pro* side. Mr. Campbell pointed out the inconsistencies in the arguments on the *con* side, and expressed the great obligations we are under in the matter to the Comte de Bezaure and the French Fathers; and the resolution was carried by a large majority. Mr. Buchanan's resolution in reference to Mr. McMurray's expenses was also carried; and the Special Meeting was then held, a large number of ratepayers having left, at which Mr. Anderson proposed the Bye-law authorising the taxation of Fire Insurance Companies. He was answered by Mr. W. D. Little, who made a very brief speech in his capacity as a simple ratepayer, and the resolution was lost by a very large majority. A vote of thanks to Mr. Pelham Warren for presiding closed the proceedings.

Review.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

Village Life in China. A Study in Sociology. By Arthur H. Smith, D.D. With illustrations. In cloth gilt, 8vo., 360 pp. New York: Chicago: Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

The appearance of a fresh work by the author of *Chinese Characteristics* will be eagerly welcomed by every reader of that most valuable book, and anticipations will be found fully justified. The new book displays the same shrewd observation, the same keen insight into the hidden springs of native character, and the same delightfully dry humour which have made *Chinese Characteristics* a standard work. There is hardly a statement which can be made about the Chinese that is not open to contradiction: they are a confused mass of inconsistencies. But although they are so puzzling as to be almost incomprehensible to the Western mind, they are intensely interesting for that very reason; and no one has done more than the Rev. Arthur H. Smith to throw light upon the darkness and make them intelligible. It must be explained that by *Village Life* is not meant life only in such small agglomerations of houses as we see around Shanghai, but country life generally as opposed to that in the large and important cities. Consequently the scope of the work is much wider than the title may suggest; since by far the majority of the inhabitants of China live in such villages as are here intended to be understood. The book is divided into three parts, the first dealing with The Village, its Institutions, Usages, and Public Characters; the second with Village Family Life; and the third discusses the regeneration of the Chinese village and asks what Christianity can do for China.

The best way, and only adequate way, of giving an account of this book would be to enumerate the headings of the chapters, and to say that each subject has been thoroughly treated. We content ourselves, however, with noting certain points which have especially claimed our attention. From actual investigation Mr. Smith is of opinion that in the plain of North China it is reasonable to estimate 300 persons to the square mile for the more sparsely settled districts, and from 1,000 to 1,500 for the more thickly populated regions. The most densely populated country in Europe is Belgium, with an average of 586 to the square mile. From these figures we get a startling idea of what the struggle for existence is in this undeveloped country, and how marvellously law-abiding the people must be to live peaceably under such grinding pressure. The disregard of personal comfort, some indication of which will be found in every chapter, is the next subject which has excited our attention. Houses are built, without any reference to convenience of position, of unsuitable or perishable materials, and are cold in winter, hot in summer, and smoky all the year round. There are no proper receptacles for valuables, the only closets being made by leaving out a few bricks from the wall, and everything is in the most hopeless confusion. Roads are described as, each of them, simply a forced contribution on the part of the owners of the land to the general welfare, and as there is no earth available for repairs their state is deplorable. In districts subject to inundation a raised road which could be used at all seasons is a triple impossibility; the persons whose land must be disturbed would not suffer it; no one would lift a finger to do the work, and no one would find the materials necessary to make the road permanent. A very

characteristic story, which throws a strong light on the way the Chinese mind works, is that told on page 46. A missionary desirous of repaying the villages for a gift to his child, proposed to place a force pump in one of the wells, and thus save an enormous amount of hard labour; and he also offered to supply a stone watering trough. But the objections to putting a force pump in only one well, when the whole village was interested in the gift; the hardship of those who made a living by drawing water and who would have to be found other employment; the possibility of the pump going wrong with no one able to repair it after the people had become dependent on it, finally led to a sum of money being given instead, which was uselessly squandered. The intricacies of shopkeeping are amusingly told, but the difficulties of obtaining and keeping employment and the constant work and grind in what seems an easy life are made very plain. Some interesting details are given about theatrical companies, which show that an actor's life is not a bed of roses, and that even the pleasures of the play, of which the Chinese are so inordinately fond, bring certain inconveniences when a village is the scene of a representation. Mr. Smith has much to say about the system of education and its results; a system which benumbs the mental faculties, turning teachers into machines and pupils into parrots. The Chinese have a proverb that: "He that would know things ancient and modern must peruse five cartloads of books," but the scholar who had accomplished this would still display an ignorance a western schoolboy would be ashamed of. It is singular that the Chinese show no spirit of co-operation in municipal matters, such as the repairing of roads, etc., for they have a perfect genius for combination. One would expect so materialistic a people to be indifferent in regard to religious observances, and yet we find associations formed for the express purposes of pilgrimage or religious rites. It is true that such observances generally consist principally of a theatrical performance accompanied by gambling and gorging. As an instance of discomfort may be mentioned the prevalence of thieving when the crops are ripe, which is so bad that "everybody is obliged to mount guard over everything." Mr. Smith says that "where the population is densest, the extent to which this must be carried passes belief." To meet this necessity in some districts societies for watching the crops are formed and tribunals provided consisting of representatives of the villages concerned, to take cognisance of offences. As might have been expected, Mr. Smith gives us some interesting details of wedding and funeral customs, as well as New Year ceremonies. What he tells concerning these matters are not the usual surface facts, but things which come home to the Chinese, and which foreigners know little about. That curious institution, if such he may be termed, the village bully, is explained, and the weakness of the Government in the face of organised bands is made plain. The system of self-government, and the functions of village headmen, show that the Chinese have the spirit of democracy strongly developed, and that public opinion has more weight than one would be inclined to expect.

This review is already so long that we have no space to do adequate justice to the interesting chapters on Family Life. The position of women is fully treated, and evidently leaves very much to be desired. On the whole the impression left of the book is a sad one, but we hope the author perhaps paints with unduly heavy shadows. He has firm faith in what Christianity will accomplish in ameliorating the conditions of life. In conclusion, this is a book which everyone who wishes to know the Chinese should possess. We

have no hesitation in saying that, read in conjunction with *Chinese Characteristics*, it will teach more about this interesting people than can be learned in a life-time under ordinary conditions. The volume is worthy of better illustrations, but those which appear have been well chosen. There is a useful index.

Outports, Etc.

FANCHENG, HUPEH.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

PROSPECTING—WHAT NEXT?

In peaceful times life in the interior, shut off from immediate touch with modern civilisation, is apt to become dull and monotonous. We have long been wondering why some enterprising Westerner does not avail himself of the right to navigate inland waters, and prove to the Chinese the possibility of taking steamers up the Han river. If it only could be shown to the native merchants that the thing was possible, they would go in for it themselves with all their might. Last year there was some stir here owing to the presence of several engineers sent up by the the Peking Syndicate to explore the country along the proposed line of railway between this place and Shansi. From here there was to be a line of steamers connecting with Hankow. So the people were told, and they seemed to take the news with delight. But time passes on and nothing more is heard of either railroad or steamers. The Chinese are asking us why, expecting us to know the reason, which we do not.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE HAN.

It is really worthy of remark that no attempt, so far as we are aware, has been made to open the Han river, these four hundred miles between Hankow and Fancheng, to steamboat traffic. The shifting sandbanks would no doubt cause a great deal of difficulty, but with steamers of light draft, say three or four feet, navigation should certainly be practicable, at least during the greater part of the year. Like regulations might indeed prove to be an obstacle, but still the enterprise would seem to be worth the trying. Fancheng, with Laohokou, forty miles up river, is the natural outlet for the commerce of all this part of Hupeh and the neighbouring district of Honan, so there would be no lack of freight. The chief exports are, of course, agricultural products, especially sesamum and beans. Another important item is hides—streets and open places have been fairly covered with them this winter, the unusually big supply being due to a widespread disease attacking the cattle.

FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS.

Both people and officials are very friendly, and we have for many years experienced no trouble from open hostilities. The prevailing sentiment seems to be slowly turning in favour of change. Whatever may be their sincere opinion, an expression that is on everybody's lips is to the effect that times are degenerate to the last degree, and that a radical change is inevitable. Several of the officials and gentry have been pressing us to open a school for teaching English. But the majority of them still feel they would lose face by receiving instruction from a "barbarian."

A LITTLE INTERESTING EXCITEMENT

was aroused here the other week by the appearance of two parhelia. Of course this phenomenon is not so common in this climate as in our homelands. The classical phrase 天無二日 (Heaven has not two suns) was quoted, and teachers set to work seriously interpreting the sign in the

sky. One of them, a *chüjen*, brought up the question during a visit. To his mind it was clear that the phenomenon referred to the state of things in Peking. I offered my explanation. "Oh yes," he rejoined, "you foreigners look at it in that light, but our view is a little more profound." It might be that the mock-suns were caused by ice-crystals in the air, but then it was Heaven that made them appear at a juncture when the warning was so sorely wanted.

20th February.

NANKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

VICEBOY LIU.

It is now reported that the old Viceroy Liu Kun-yih expects to leave here on the 15th instant. He will travel on the Chinese gun-boat *Kingching* and go direct to Tientsin without calling at Woosung, and will not visit Shanghai en route.

It is said that his health is still very poor and that he much dreads the fatiguing journey before him. He will probably return within two months to resume his old duties, when the Acting Viceroy will return to Soochow as Governor.

CONSUL-GENERAL GOODNOW

has just paid a visit to the city, accompanied by Mrs. Goodnow.

He called on Viceroy Liu at his *Yamen* on Saturday, and afterwards on the Acting Viceroy Lu Ch'uan-lin at his temporary quarters. A return call was made in great state by the Acting Viceroy Lu on Mr. Goodnow at the University. The large retinue of soldiers and attendants made a long procession. Old Viceroy Liu entertained Mr. Goodnow at dinner at the Foreign Office, and had several of his subordinate officers with him. A reception was also tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Goodnow at the residence of Dr. Stuart, at which most of the Americans in the city were present.

Mr. Goodnow made himself most popular among us by his urbanity and accessibility, and it will be a pleasure to welcome him and Mrs. Goodnow again to the city.

PROFESSOR LEAVENWORTH.

At the last meeting of the Nanking Missionary Association a paper was read on "The War in South Africa" by Professor C. S. Leavenworth, of your Nanyang College in Shanghai.

The paper reviewed the incidents which had led up to the present war in a very lucid manner and was highly appreciated by the large number of persons present. Professor Leavenworth spent three weeks in the City during the New Year holidays, dividing his time between the study of Chinese and hunting.

THE MINT

resumed work a few days ago under a new régime. The Acting Viceroy has made quite a commotion in local official circles by his determination to investigate the accounts of the Mint and to weed out abuses. It is said that he has succeeded in saving some money in the running expenses, and in collecting money which had previously not been accounted for.

7th March.

WHITE AND SOUND TEETH. ROWLAND'S ODONTO is the best and purest dentifrice, being warranted free from any acid or gritty ingredients; it whitens and preserves the teeth, it eradicates the formation of tartar, removes spots of incipient decay, polishes and preserves the enamel, sweetens the breath, induces a healthy action of the gums, causing them to assume the brightness and colour indicative of perfect soundness. ROWLAND'S ESSENCE OF TYRZ is the best preparation for dyeing the hair a permanent brown or black. Ask Stores and Chemists for ROWLAND'S articles, of 67, Hatton Garden, London.

(3c) alt. 21my-900 247 22nd May, 1899.

NORTH-WESTERN KIANGSU.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

BURIED ALIVE.

Our city has just been treated to the sensation of a living burial, and that not accidental either. A woman had attempted to kill her husband by drugging his wine and came very near accomplishing her purpose, although the man was still living at last reports. On discovering foul play the enraged mother-in-law deliberately had a grave dug and then the woman, bound hand and foot, was carried to the burying-place. A large crowd followed but none were disposed to interfere in what appeared to all such a well-merited punishment, for what counts the life of a woman when compared with that of her husband? And so the awful tragedy was actually consummated? and, unable to move hand or foot, the poor unfortunate was consigned to her living grave. Even at such cost must the dignity of the lords of creation be maintained in China, and woman taught to treat them with the proper respect. On asking if the official would probably take any notice of the affair, I was told that he would not. Indeed the punishment that he himself would have meted would have been even more torturing and disgraceful than that administered by the mother-in-law. How apt the word, of the Psalmist: "The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."

Hsüchoufu, 27th February.

NORTH-WESTERN SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE BOXER TROUBLE.

It is now two months since General Yuan Shih-k'ai took charge of the Governor's office, and it seems to be understood that he is to be not merely the acting but actual ruler of the yet uncounted millions of this ancient province. He has certainly fallen upon evil days, and has his hands full many times over. The Boxer business is far from being at an end, although some of his followers were sanguine enough to set ten days as the limit beyond which it would by no means figure. But it is a melancholy fact evident to those who know the real conditions of the disturbed districts, that the Boxers have not been in the least suppressed, but only temporarily repressed. In many places there are still "camps" drilling with more or less publicity and with the firm expectation that some time "in the second month" or "in the third month" there is to be a general rising. For outbreaks of this sort it is popularly supposed that the Chinese "Constitution" has kindly made provision. "Every two hundred and fifty years a small revolution, and every five hundred years a great revolution", although none of these cataclysms are in any proper sense revolutions, but merely readjustments. It is impossible to say what relation the perpetual crisis in Peking may have to the administration of provincial affairs. What we are sufficiently certain of is that there does not appear to be any firm grip upon the situation either in this province or in Chihli. Troops are scattered all about as they have been for many months. They are frequently ordered hither and yon with imperative urgency, as if much depended upon celerity, but so far as is visible nothing in particular ever comes of it. The first and most pressing duty in the restoration of civil order is the rigorous arrest of the principal leaders, and their condign punishment, as every sensible person has been remarking now for some months. But it is at just this point that the practice of the higher authorities fails. Both in Shantung and in Chihli it is the rule that

RELATIVELY FEW ARRESTS.

have been made, and often of unimportant second-rate leaders, the principal ones being sometimes arrested and soon after released (a piece of fatuous folly as serving only to inflame the leaders themselves and all their followers), sometimes sent to the provincial capital whence they return with a certificate of good character or possibly with a feather and a button, which serves to make their previous piracies absolutely official. There is a case of this sort within a few miles of this spot, and the effect of the sudden midnight seizure of a sub-leader three days ago, has been to cause the real leader to threaten to gather his forces and release the captive, or at least to take vengeance on those who gave information to the soldiers who made the arrest. Why there is not a simultaneous descent upon all the men whom it is intended to take at all, while they are boldly remaining at their homes is past comprehension. In these arrests the local officials are perfectly helpless, as it is infallibly certain that any *yanmen* runners put upon such a trail would send word ahead, and extort money as a reward for allowing the man wanted, to escape. The regular soldiers on the other hand are strangers, and find it very difficult to secure any one to be eyes and ears for them. There has already been so much dawdling over these indispensable arrests of prominent Boxers, that every one of them has had time to join the Boers in Pretoria had he been thus minded. Unfortunately for them, many of the chief men seem to be infatuated with the idea that it is only a question of time when they shall again have their innings as in the palmy days when Yü Hsien exercised his big-sword troops in front of his *yanmen* as a specimen of how the thing ought to be done. The irrepressible and universal belief that this Manchurian worthy was to return, is perhaps gradually passing away. It was because it denoted the beginning of a general rising, and the extinction of all foreign interests that it was so much hoped for. All things considered it is hard to say that the situation has in any material respect improved during the past two months. Some of the

PATERNAL MAGISTRATES.

have issued proclamations informing the people that by soaking autumn wheat once every month for three winter months it will be fit for sowing, and will produce spring wheat. It will be interesting to watch this agricultural innovation. Very few Chinese in this whole region can remember a year in which autumn wheat was not planted, and this year thousands refuse to plant any spring wheat—the seed for which can with some extra trouble be obtained—because for their whole life time they have never done so! Several of the counties in this region have been visited by *weiyuan*s who offer to distribute "Imperial bounty" to any that have been pillaged, regardless of sect, four strings of (small) cash to each adult, and half as much for a child. The object of this is to forefend any claims for compensation for the grievous outrage to which the Christians have been everywhere subjected, the amount of damages sustained already amounting to hundreds of thousands of taels. This the Chinese authorities have at present not the smallest idea of repaying, although the magistrates of Hengshui and Tsao-ch'ang *hsien*s in Chihli have already paid all claims in full from their own resources, and others have promised to do so. But the Provincial Judge is said to have reprimanded one of them sharply for his promptness. The winter has been a bitterly cold one, and the spring is made to match it.

27th February.

WUCHANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE IMPERIAL CLAIMANT.

The great source of excitement in Wuchang for the last few months has been the mysterious Emperor, whose arrival and subsequent experiences in this city have been referred to more than once in the *North-China Daily News*. This evening I had some conversation with a more than usually acute Chinese gentleman; when I referred to the spurious Emperor he was quite indignant and insisted that the poor prisoner in the Chianghsia magistrate's *yanmen* is really the Emperor. It will easily be believed that the stories one hears about this illustrious captive are somewhat contradictory. When we first heard of him it was stated that he came from Chichou. Now the story is much more romantic.

HIS STORY.

Two years ago, when the Emperor consulted with the Empress Dowager about the advisability of adopting European dress, that august lady was very irate and unbraided her imperial nephew and K'ang Yü-wei in no measured terms. In consequence the Emperor gave K'ang Yü-wei strict orders to flee from Peking; when the Empress found he had escaped she vented her wrath upon the Emperor. He was imprisoned in one of the palaces and given some harmful potion. In this extremity he begged some of the eunuchs to let him escape; they did so and in consequence three of them were executed by their enraged mistress. The Emperor, sick of life, betook himself to a monastery in Szechuan, intending to renounce for ever all worldly pomp and ambition. However, he apparently found it hard to keep his secret, and by degrees his history became known to his companions. In the course of time he found his way to Wuchang and succeeded in making many believe that he really was the Emperor. Amongst others who have visited him and are convinced of the truth of his claims is the chief of the police force in Hankow.

A few weeks ago he was examined by the Wuchang prefect and by him handed over to the Chianghsia magistrate. Up to the present the highest officials have prudently avoided meeting or examining him, fearing that his claims may prove to be true. The prefect is said to have treated him with marked respect, but the magistrate is a man of sterner mood and has more than once had him beaten. He has now sent in a dispatch to the Viceroy in which he states that the so-styled Emperor is really an arch-traitor of the same gang as K'ang Yü-wei, that he has numerous friends who supply him with money and who are prepared to support his pretensions with arms. The magistrate urges the Viceroy to have him executed at once before trouble arises. It is said that this dispatch is an invention of the magistrate's. He ordered one of his underlings to alter the prisoner's statements, but he declined, whereupon the magistrate himself did so.

Be this how it may, it is certain that the Viceroy is himself going to meet and examine the prisoner in person to-morrow, and has put out a proclamation stating that he hears he is a bad character. Nearly all the people believe he is the Emperor. His lack of proofs is accounted for by the robbers of Szechuan having stolen them, amongst others a jade seal. What is certain is that the man knows a little English, he speaks with a Pekingese dialect and shows considerable acquaintance with the court of Peking and K'ang Yü-wei. The Chinese papers report that the Foreign Ministers saw and interviewed the Emperor in Peking on the 18th or 19th of last month, but the Wuchang Emperor naturally refuses to believe this.

THE LITTLE KNIVES.

As in Shantung, there are a Club of *Big Knives*, so in Hankow there is said to be a dangerous Club who style themselves the *Little Knives*. They put out a proclamation some time ago calling on the people to rebel against the Empress. Whether the Club exists except in the proclamation we doubt. Everything seems quiet.

TWO POPULAR MANDARINS.

More than once we have had occasion to refer to the Chinghsia magistrate. He was a *protégé* of the Governor Yü, who has the reputation of being an honest and clean-anded official. The Governor, however has now joined the large company who speak evil of the magistrate and has denounced him to Peking as being proud, and filled with all the self-opinionativeness of youth.

Another unpopular mandarin is the Taotai Chü, the head of the Board of Reorganisation in Wuchang. Whilst a friend of the Viceroy, he has made himself hated by the people and, I hear, has now been removed from office.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

The Wuchang prefect has been made a Taotai and the Hanyang prefect promoted to Wuchang. The expected arrival of Li Peng-hing, the High Commissioner, is said to fill the dishonest officials with dread. It is to be hoped his arrival will not dispel their anxiety.

THE CHINESE MINISTER IN BRISTOL.

Some English papers just received give a very interesting account of the visit of Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng-lo to Bristol in January. He visited amongst other places the Avonmouth Docks, Messrs. Fry and Sons' Chocolate Factory, Messrs. W. D. and H. O. Wills's Tobacco Factory, and Messrs. Derham's Boot Factory. He was feasted by the Chamber of Commerce and succeeded in pleasing all sorts and conditions of Bristolians. Some details of his visit will be of interest to many in China. Mrs. Little and the Heavenly Foot Society will rejoice to hear what he said in the boot factory—that he knew that as a nation England was distinguished by her freedom and liberty, so they (the Chinese) were going to adopt not only the English freedom of speech and freedom of the Press and freedom of the Government, but *freedom of the female foot*.

The Anti-Opium Society will hear with pleasure that he said at the tobacco factory that, although he was an exception to the general rule, China was the greatest smoking nation in the world. They indulged themselves in almost all kinds of forms and shapes of smoking and that he rather regretted. His recommendation was that they should limit their smoking to tobaccos, cigars and cigarettes—or that they should limit their smoking to the productions of a factory like that of Messrs. W. D. and H. O. Wills & Co. This would confer not only a great boon on the company but also on the inhabitants of China.

But the most interesting speech was that made at Müller's Orphanage, where he was presented with a Chinese Bible and a copy of the life of the founder of the Orphanage. The Chinese Minister said: "I thank you for the opportunity you have given me of visiting an institution which is unique in its character. In the world of materialism and utilitarianism we have nearly lost our faith in a Divine Being. You have shown now that we have a close communication and relation with a superior Creator. We are controlled by Him and nothing else. We live because he lives. We know because he knows. You are the father of the fatherless, the mother of the motherless, and we have to look to him as the Father of the world. Mr. Wright, I thank you very much; you have converted me from materialism to faith."

7th March.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.)

A GRATEFUL TRIBUTE.

The day after I sent you my last letter news came of poor old Ruskin's death. We women owe so much to his teaching that I feel I cannot altogether ignore his passing away. Personally I have felt for a long time that I owe more to his teaching than to that of any other man, and I have given away many copies of his *Sesame and Lilies* to my girl friends—always the edition with the preface—just after they had said good-bye to school life. I even read portions of the said preface to my little girl when she was only twelve, and with marked result. Soon afterwards she was despairing of ever "getting on" with music, so I asked her would she like to give it up. She at once said: "No; you see, mother, when I grow up I ought at least to be able to play accompaniments"—the "personal benefit of being serviceable." I often think how many things might have still been going on in their old hum-drum ways had he not taught us how to see things differently. Not that Ruskin for one instant believed in that terrible person, the new woman, as she is generally understood, a being who prides herself on drinking whisky and soda in the middle of the day and smoking cigarettes at all hours. I am not sure if he even approved of ladies' clubs, which are fast becoming such a feature of London life. I don't think he would have disapproved of them, as anything that tended to widen women's ideas always commended itself to him. When visiting the lake country some three years ago, I drove past Brantwood several times and was much disappointed at never seeing its owner. It is an ideal spot, quite near to Coniston lake. One day I went to Langdale and saw the school for "home arts" which Ruskin initiated there, and in which he took so great an interest. The well-known "Rikes" shelter it from cold winds, and here the experiment of flax-growing was tried, the enthusiast hoping that the hand-woven linen might be made from materials grown on the spot. In this, I believe, he was disappointed, but the weaving prospers wonderfully. Here the pall was woven and embroidered which was used for covering the coffin during the last sad ceremony; it was made of tussore coloured linen embroidered with sprays of red flowers and bordered with a band of geranium coloured silk, with which it was likewise lined; in the centre were the words "Unto this Last" and round them a wreath of laurel. From a florist who was sent from town with some of the choicest floral trophies I learnt that he estimated the cost of the flowers sent at £1,000, certainly not less. The Queen and Princess Louise sent contributions, but one of the most beautiful designs was from Mr. Spielmann; it was an enormous harp of blue violets, the broken strings being composed of the same flowers in white. Mr. and Mrs. Watts sent a laurel wreath cut from a bush which had only been despoiled three times previously—for Leighton, Millais, and Burne Jones.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

Whilst looking through the first number of Mr. Clement Shorter's new illustrated paper *The Sphere* a few days ago, I noticed in the literary column a hitherto unpublished letter from the late Dr. Martineau which filled me with so much surprise that I cannot forbear alluding to it. In common, as I believe with most people, I always regarded that most learned divine as a Unitarian. In all his obituary notices I see that term applied to him, but according to this letter such was not the case. He states he was ordained by the Presbytery of Dublin and that he sat for three years in the synod of

Munster—this we know; but he goes on to tell us that the word Unitarian is not Ecclesiastical at all, but Theological, denoting a doctrinal opinion without any consideration of church fellowship. He says he never accepted any pastoral charge without first ascertaining that it was offered by a people not only individually free but resolute to guard the place of worship from the enthralling influence of a doctrinal name. If asked, it was no new thing for him to say he knew nothing of any Unitarian church in England, and if there was such a thing he could not belong to it. "Orthodoxy as a condition of fellowship in the Christian life and worship is equally repulsive to me whether it be my doxy or your doxy." To me this explains a great deal in his writing which I never quite understood when looked at from the standpoint of what we usually understand by Unitarianism.

ANOTHER INTERESTING PERSONALITY

has passed away in the person of Mr. R. D. Blackmore, author of *Lorna Doone* and other well-known novels. He was in his 75th year, so, as with Martineau and Ruskin, his life's work had been accomplished. One cannot mourn for them in the same sense that one deplores the death of G. W. Stevens, the gifted war correspondent to the *Daily Mail*, and author of *With Kitchener to Khartoum*. Truly, whether this be the last year of the old century or the first year in the new one, it is claiming heavy dues in our great men.

BETTER DEATH THAN MADNESS.

So I thought when I visited the Continental Gallery a few days ago and saw 25 paintings done by that great Hungarian painter Munkacsy and heard of his truly terrible fate. It will be remembered that his last great work, *Ecco Homo*, when it was shown was unfinished. We were told that just before its completion the artist had suddenly lost his reason and that it was only by being forcibly held back that he was prevented from ruining his work entirely. The doctors who were called in agreed that it was a form of religious mania caused by too much absorption in a work of such a painful nature. They prophesied speedy recovery, but, alas! their prognostications have not been fulfilled, as poor Munkacsy is now far worse and at times terribly violent even in his lucid intervals. He has not the least recollection of his art and he suffers intensely.

The present exhibition includes studies for two of his most celebrated pictures, *Christ before Pilate* and *Calvary*, also a replica of the great painting on the ceiling of the Austrian National Art Historical Museum at Vienna; but more interesting to me were some of the smaller works, notably *The Recital*, wherein a young man is telling a most exciting tale of adventure to an audience of two, presumably a father and daughter. They are listening with rapt attention, seated at a table on which are fruit and wine. A great feature of the work is the beautiful effect of light which comes from a window at the back and plays through the entire picture with most pleasing effect. A scene of peasant life in Hungary is likewise full of life, as is also *The Incurable*, one Goth among a number of humble fiddlers; it is so realistic that one can almost hear the music. An exquisite bit of work is the *Park Colpach*. Just a path, with overhanging trees through which the light plays—so little subject, but treated in such masterly style and so full of harmony that one is forced to regret that the artist devoted so little time to landscape painting. Nearly all his works are interiors.

A GORGEOUS PLAYHOUSE.

Last night saw the opening of the new and beautiful St. James's. I say new advisedly, as beyond the outside walls little is left of the old theatre. In its stead we have a structure not only

beautiful, but replete with every modern contrivance for warming, ventilating, etc. The floor has been lowered ten feet and the roof raised six. In place of the time-honoured gaselier the ceiling has a diamond lattice pattern of moulding running all over it, and at each point of the moulding is an electric light, which has a very pretty effect. The walls are covered with Japanese leather paper, a gold ground with deep red design; both stalls and dress circle are upholstered in electric blue Utrecht velvet, through which runs a conventional woven design in white; the carpets are similar, but darker in tone. The *tableau* curtain and hangings for the boxes (there are only two) are of red brocade of the richest tone, embellished with lovely embroidery in shades of blue, green, and gold. This work has all been done at the Royal School of Art Needlework at South Kensington, and it is *appliqué* to the brocade with gold thread. The new act drop is another feature; it has been painted by Telbin and is an exact reproduction of one of the celebrated "Pastoral" pieces of tapestry in South Kensington Museum.

Judging from the tremendous applause which greeted Mr. Alexander on his first appearance last night, I should say the public fully appreciates all he has done for their comfort. From every seat in the house a good view of the stage is obtained, and the semi-oriental colouring suits the traditions of the place. Had everything been blue and white as at Wyndham's it would have appeared too modern. I heard Mrs. Alexander remark: "We have tried to remember it is not a new house, and have treated it accordingly," in which this talented couple have shown their wisdom. To *Rupert of Hentzau*, chosen for the opening ceremony, I am afraid I cannot give unqualified praise. It is a sequel to *The Prisoner of Zenda*, but is more gloomy and less romantic. For acting purposes the book has been divided into four parts or acts and seven scenes—the Constable's Room in the castle of Zenda, where Ritschenheim seeks to see the King and sees Rassendyl instead, or rather first, and the King after; the exterior of the house of Fritz von Tarlenheim, where Rassendyl is recognised by the Chancellor's family; the King's hunting lodge, where Rupert kills the King and his forester and boar hound; a scene in the lodge-keeper's cellar, where Rupert meets his fate at the hands of Rassendyl; and the final scene and *tableau*, one showing the death and the other the lying-in-state of the "play actor." From this it will be seen that the plot of the book has been closely followed, likewise that in nearly each scene some one dies violently. The actors and actresses left nothing to be desired. Mr. Alexander doubled the parts of the King and Rassendyl. Mr. H. B. Irving was Rupert, and he played the part of that heartless young villain to perfection. Mr. Vernon was splendid as Colonel Sapt, and Mr. H. V. Esmond equally so as Fritz. None of the ladies' parts are particularly strong, but as Queen Flavia Miss Fay Davis looked very charming and Miss Julie Opp made a delightful Gipsy Rosa.

"IN HIS STEPS."

Next Monday is to witness the production at the Adelphi of a piece called *The Better Life*. It is founded on two "books with a purpose," *In His Steps* and *The Crucifixion of Philip Strong*. For a long time the Examiner of Plays refused it a licence, but eventually sufficient alterations were made to secure a pass. Now it remains but for the public to pass judgment. We shall see what it will be.

2nd February.

J.K.

Meetings

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room on Thursday, the 1st of March, 1900, there were present:—Messrs. F. Anderson (Chairman), S. A. Hardoon, E. A. Hewett, R. Inglis, H. R. Kinnear, J. Prentice, E. Quackenbush, M. Rolde, E. B. Skottowe, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary; also, Messrs. A. McLeod, and C. M. Ede, members of the Council for 1900.

The usual formal business is transacted.

Road Extension No. 6.—The following correspondence is ordered for publication, from which it is concluded that the proceedings instituted in the Court of Consuls in regard to this and other extensions by the firm is question will be withdrawn:

16, The Bund,
Shanghai, 24th February, 1900.
re Road Extension No. 6.

SIR,—In order to endeavour to come to some satisfactory settlement of the dispute between us on the above subject, we are now authorised to offer the Council a 30-foot road free of cost in the position shown by red lines on the plan handed to Mr. Mayne on the 22nd instant, on condition that the Council will divert this road from the position shown upon the plan of 1899 into the direction now proposed.

We should of course be pleased to receive assurances from the Council that they will make up the road in a reasonable time, and continue it in a southerly direction to join some other public road, or that if this is not done they will re-convey the land to the owner; but these suggestions we doubt not will receive consideration by the Council.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient servants,
MORRISON & GRATTON.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,
Secretary, Shanghai Municipal Council.
Council Room,
Shanghai, 2nd March, 1900.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24th ultimo, submitting proposals for modification of the line of Road Extension No. 6 as shown upon the plan of 1899.

In reply I am instructed to state that the Council accepts these proposals under the conditions and will modify the road plan for the current year accordingly. In regard to the extension of the road in a southerly direction to join Road Extension No. 30, the Council will proceed in this matter as soon as possible, but it is to be noted that the acquisition of the land required for the latter thoroughfare, as well as for the completion of Road Extension No. 6, will probably require considerable negotiations and reference to the Land Commissioners under Land Regulation *Via*. The making up of the road through your property will be commenced on completion of these arrangements.

The Council will be glad to receive surrender deed from you in due course, forms for which will be forwarded to you.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND,
Secretary.

Messrs. MORRISON & GRATTON,
Shanghai.

Thibet Road Extension.—Letter from Messrs. Morrison & Gratton is read, submitting proposals on behalf of Mr. Riva and other land-owners for the extension of the Thibet Road through property recently belonging to the Shanghai Silk Filature, from the new bridge in the direction of the proposed road connecting with the Chekiang Road and also for the making up of two other roads through the same property.

From report by the Engineer it appears that the total cost of making up the proposed thoroughfares will amount to £20,500, in

addition to which expenditure there will be £3,100 for the acquisition of other strips of land required for the completion of the roads, and £4,000 for a main sewer. Deducting the contribution of £3,000 offered by Mr. Riva, the total cost of the improvement would be £24,300. After full consideration of the proposals and comparison thereof with the original estimated cost of acquiring the Thibet Road extension and No. 26 by purchase, the Council decides to accept this offer, noting always that the further continuation of the Thibet Road cannot form the subject of any definite pledges by the Council.

Tramways.—Letter from the Agents of the Shanghai Tramway Syndicate is read and ordered for publication with reply as directed:—

Shanghai, 23rd February, 1900.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed we beg to hand you a renewed tender from the Shanghai Tramway Syndicate which kindly place before the Council in due course.

We think that the explanations and proposals now made meet the greater part of the objections raised when this matter was discussed at the Ratepayers' meeting, and are therefore hopeful that, in further discussion, the necessity for a tramway will be obvious to the members of this community.

We may have more information to place before you at an early date; meantime,

We remain,
Yours faithfully,
MAJOR BROS.,
E. O. ARBUTHNOT,
Secretary.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,
Secretary, Municipal Council.

SHANGHAI TRAMWAY SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

11, Queen Victoria Street,
London, 19th January, 1900.

GENTLEMEN,—I am instructed by my Directors to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th October, No. 99/537, and also of the English and French newspapers, giving reports of the Meeting of Ratepayers.

My Directors desire me to say that they very much regret the decision arrived at at the Meeting of Ratepayers, especially as many of the remarks made at that meeting can only be attributed to misapprehensions.

Especially is this the case as regards the statement of one gentleman that the object of this Syndicate could be to obtain the franchise or concession with a view to selling it. Far from this being the case, this Syndicate, before signing the tender made by us, entered into agreements for provision of the capital required and for the formation of a British Company to work the concession if obtained.

We may further point out that, in the "Conditions for tenderers," it is clearly stated on page 20 that, "the proposed Company is to be known as the Shanghai Tramway Company" and "the share list to be open to local subscribers." It appeared to us that this could only mean that the tender should be sent in by a separate firm or corporation and that the latter should, if obtaining the concession, transfer it to a Company to be formed exclusively for the purpose of working the Shanghai Transways.

Some of the Ratepayers appear to think that there is too much of the French element in our offer. Permit us to point out that it would hardly be fair to make the undertaking exclusively English, seeing that the Foreign Settlement joined hands with the French Settlement in this matter. As already written, the chief object my Directors had in view when forming this Syndicate was to secure a part of the work for this country, we having received information that we should be the only British group tendering, as practically proved to be the case. We may mention that, after our tender had been selected by the joint meeting of the two Municipal Councils, provisional arrangements were at once made by us for the purchase of the rails in Scotland, engines in England and the boilers in Shanghai.

In view of the above we would respectfully ask your Council to reconsider the matter and again submit our tender to a meeting of the Ratepayers.

We are prepared in this event, and if the franchise or concession be given us, to undertake that:

1.—A Company will be formed, with its seat in London and with at least half its Directors Englishmen, for the purpose of acquiring and working the franchise or concession for the tramways at Shanghai. If your Council or the Ratepayers desire it, we are prepared to form this Company immediately the Ratepayers signify they are willing to grant such Company the franchise or concession on the lines of our tender, and in this event the franchise could be given to the Tramway Company instead of to us and the agreement entered into between your Municipality and the Company direct.

2.—A clause will be inserted in the agreement making the Company amenable to the jurisdiction of the Court at Shanghai.

3.—The Company will procure at least half of all material required from English firms, unless we show, to the satisfaction of your Engineer, or other person appointed by you, that we cannot obtain delivery within a reasonable time or at reasonable prices. A reasonable portion will also be ordered in America and Germany, as proposed in our original tender.

4.—The material sent out from this side shall be carried for at least the greater part in English vessels.

5.—The rails would be so laid as not to catch the wheels of carriages and in such a manner as would undoubtedly meet with the approval of your Engineer.

6.—The Company will deposit as mentioned in the "Conditions for tenderers" a sum of £10,000 as a guarantee for the fulfilment of the obligations of the Company formed to acquire the concession.

We trust that your Council and the Ratepayers will take into consideration that we and the firms associated with us in this matter have gone to very considerable expense; have sent out an Engineer to thoroughly study the situation on the spot; have prepared very careful plans and estimates, as your own Engineer has reported to you; and, lastly, that our conditions and price were the most favourable for the Settlements.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

CHAS. BINGHAM,
Manager and Secretary.

To the Council of the Foreign Settlement,
Shanghai.

Council Room,
Shanghai, 2nd March, 1900.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 3rd inst., enclosing a renewed tender from the Shanghai Tramway Syndicate, which has received the attention of the Council.

In reply, I am instructed to refer you to the statement made by the Chairman of the Council at the special meeting of Ratepayers held on 17th October last to the effect that if the tramway scheme then submitted were rejected, no further scheme would be put forward by the Council under the resolution of 1898. Under these circumstances the Council considered that any new proposals in this matter must be brought forward by Ratepayers, in the form of a resolution, at a public meeting.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND.

Secretary.

Messrs. MAJOR BROS., Ltd.,
Shanghai.

Court of Consuls.—Despatch from the Senior Consul is submitted, intimating that the constitution of the Court, as elected for the current year, remains unchanged.

Volunteers.—The resignation of Lieutenant Carmichael of the Naval Company, forwarded by the Major Commanding, is noted.

Commission for Mr. C. C. A. Wedemeyer as Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Corps is signed.

Reply from H.M. Consul-General to the Council's application regarding the importation of ammunition is read, and it is decided to thank Mr. Warren for his good offices in this matter.

Council Room,
Shanghai, 29th January, 1900.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that during the past year considerable inconvenience and expense has been caused by the unavoidable delay which occurs upon each occasion when ammunition is received from H.M. Military authorities in Hongkong for the use of the Volunteer Corps, by reason of the necessary formalities connected with the obtaining of a Taotai's permit for importation. To obviate this in the future I have the honour to state that the annual grant sanctioned by the War Office is a maximum of 60,000 rounds of small arm ammunition and 200 rounds of 9 pr R.L.B. cartridges, and to request that you may be good enough to obtain a standing permit for the importation thereof during any one year. It will be well to point out that the proposed change in procedure is made purely for general convenience, and, in conclusion, I have the honour to convey to you the Council's thanks for your good offices in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. ANDERSON,
Chairman.

PELHAM WARREN, Esq.,
H.M. Acting Consul-General,
Shanghai.

H.B.M. Consulate-General,
Shanghai, 29th February, 1900.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of January 29th, requesting me to arrange with the Taotai for the issue of one permit annually for the Hongkong government grant of volunteer ammunition, I beg to inform you that the Taotai has acceded to the suggestion and has communicated to the Commissioner of Customs his approval.

In future, therefore, the landing of this ammunition may be effected by the direct application of your Secretary to the Commissioner of Customs.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

PELHAM WARREN,
Consul-General.

F. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Chairman, Municipal Council,
Shanghai.

Council Room.

Shanghai, 2nd March, 1900.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo informing me of the arrangements you have been able to make in regard to the importation of ammunition for the local Volunteer Corps. These arrangements are entirely satisfactory and I desire to convey to you the Council's thanks for your good offices in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. ANDERSON,
Chairman.

PELHAM WARREN, Esq.,
H.M. Consul General,
Shanghai.

Fireman John Smith Fund.—The Council, at the request of the Fire Insurance Association, has agreed to administer this fund for the benefit of the family of the deceased.

The following sums have been received and, with the Council's subscription of \$500, aggregate Tls. 2,717.45:—Fire Insurance Association Tls. 1,005; French Municipal Council \$250; "Le Torrent" Co., S. F. D., Tls. 110; per Mr. W. R. Kahler, \$1,400.

This amount will be placed upon fixed deposit with the Hongkong Bank pending the next issue of Municipal Debentures, in which the fund will be invested during the minority of the deceased's children.

The Meeting then adjourns.

The following are forwarded for publication with the foregoing minutes:—

Taxation of Extension Area.

7a, Peking Road, 16th February, 1900.

SIR,—I have to request the Council to refund to me the sum of Tls. 25.50 and Tls. 30 collected by them from me on September 7th and October 18th, 1899 as taxes on my house No. 11, Markham Road, from July 1 to December 31, 1899. As I am now aware that the Council had no right to collect these taxes and can only collect them from January 1st, 1900, they can either refund the amount in question, of Tls. 55.50, or they can put it to my credit for the taxes from Jan. 1st to June 30th, 1900, and a cheque for Tls. 4.50 to make the amount up to Tls. 60 will be forwarded to you from me.

I remain,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST W. TISDALL.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,
Secretary, Municipal Council
Shanghai.

Council Room,
Shanghai, 23rd February, 1900.

SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16th inst., referring to the taxation of your house (No. 11, Markham Road) from 1st July. The Council notes your opinion that the taxes in question were levied without proper authority but does not concur therein, the intention to administer the extension area having been duly submitted at a meeting of Ratepayers, and a supplementary budget of receipts and expenditure having been published for general information. Pending the submission of a resolution on the subject at the impending annual meeting the Council is prepared to leave the matter in abeyance.

It is to be observed, with reference to your individual case, that in July last you claimed and obtained the services of the Health Department in the matter of certain nuisances existing in the neighbourhood of your residence, a claim which could hardly have been preferred unless you recognised the obligation to pay taxes.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Secretary.

E. W. TISDALL, Esq.,
Shanghai.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL RATE,

NATIVE.—DECEMBER QUARTER.

	1899.		1899.		1897.
No. of Hou.	Rental Assess-ment	No. of Hou.	Rental Assess-ment	No. of Hou.	Rental Assess-ment
Central District..13,731	2,315,753	13,936	2,215,426	13,554	1,595,138
Western District..6,109	222,250	..	..	..	..
Northern District..2,934	593,153	12,313	560,665	11,878	749,325
Eastern District..9,753	464,068	9,049	400,149	7,356	312,742
Total ..42,430	3,914,824	34,298	3,125,260	32,088	2,996,203

Occupied by Natives..38,618 3,595,597 31,638 2,117,379 31,545 2,841,506

Occupied by Europeans..702 97,418 613 81,066 650 78,543

Unoccupied..3,110 221,809 1,697 225,855 554 76,064

Total ..42,430 3,914,824 34,298 3,125,260 32,088 2,996,203

	Tax collected @10%		@10%		8%
Central District ..	55,307	..	52,063	..	46,524
Western District ..	4,785	..	..	..	..
Northern District ..	21,239	..	19,019	..	18,131
Eastern District ..	10,366	..	9,919	..	7,992
Total ..	91,698	..	80,000	..	72,644

A. JOHNSFORD,
Overseer of Taxes.

WEEKLY POLICE REPORT.

Return of apprehensions, etc., made by the Police during the week ending 24th day of February, 1900.

Offences.	No. of appre- hensions.
Breach of Municipal Regulations	57
Burglary	5
Cruelty to Animals	3
Embezzlement	1
Furious Riding and/or Driving	9
Gambling	5
Larceny from Persons	2
" Dwellings, etc.	61
Miscellaneous Cases	236
Ricsha Licenses suspended	593
" confiscated	20
Wheelbarrow, suspended	112
Haud Cart	1
Beggars, Hawkers, and Ragpickers ..	502
Total number of persons coming under the notice of Police	1,607
Chinese dead bodies found in streets ..	6
Stray dogs captured	32

DONALD MACKENZIE,
Deputy-Superintendent of Police.

THE RATEPAYERS' MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of Ratepayers of the Foreign Settlements north of the Yangkingpang was held yesterday in the Municipal Council Board Room, Kiangsoe Road.

The following is a statement of the ratepayers present, and the number of votes held by each:—

Adamson, C. M.	1	Cubitt, L. J.	1
Adler, M.	2	Cushny, A.	7
Alear, A. E.	2	Dallas, Arthur	2
Allen, R. B.	3	Danforth, A. W.	1
Allen, Rev. Dr.	2	Darwent, Rev. C.	1
Y. J.	2	E.	1
Ambrose, James.	3	Davis, E.	2
Anderson, F.	5	Davis, H. C.	1
Anderson, L.	1	Davis, Rev. D. H.	1
Antia, N. K.	2	Donovan, J. P.	1
Antonin, Brother.	1	Dowdall, C.	27
Arbuthnot, E. O.	2	Drummond, W. V.	3
Arranger, J.	1	Dunn, Walter	1
Ashley, C. J.	1	Dyce, C. M.	3
Atkinson, B.	2	Ede, C. Montague	2
Ball, F. P.	3	Edkins, Dr. J.	1
Ballard, J. A.	1	Elias, J. R.	1
Bayne, W. G.	2	Elias, R. H.	1
Beauchamp, R. H.	1	Ellert, F. A. G.	1
Bell, F. H.	2	Ellis, F.	1
Bennett, C. C.	2	Evans, A. M. A.	5
Bentley, Rev. W.	1	Evans, E.	1
P.	1	Ezra, E. M.	1
Bernheim, M.	1	Ferguson, J. C.	2
Biddle, C. A.	1	Fitch, Rev. G. F.	1
Bitton, Rev. W.	1	Fobes, A. S.	1
Nelson	1	Ford, John	1
Blechynden, J.	2	Freeman, R. S.	1
Pois, J. C.	2	Furlonge, R. S.	2
Bondfield, Rev.	1	Fuse, F.	1
G. H.	1	Gensburger, H.	2
Boone, Dr. H. W.	1	Ghisi, E.	3
Bowman, J. J.	1	Grant, J. C.	1
Brand, D.	3	Gande, J. W.	3
Brockelbank, G.	1	Golding, T. B.	1
Brodersen, C.	2	Goodfellow, W.	1
Browett, Harold.	2	Graham, John	1
Brunat, Paul.	2	Gratton, F. M.	4
Buchanan, C.	1	Graves, Rt. Rev.	1
Buchanan, James.	17	F. R.	3
Budd, Chas.	1	Guedes, J. M.	1
Burge, Dr. F. J.	1	Hamilton, J. T.	1
Burkill, A. W.	4	Hardoon, S. A.	8
Buyers, W. B.	1	Harrie, J. Alex.	2
Byrne, E. T.	1	Harvie, W. M.	1
Cameron, J. B.	1	Hay, Chas. W.	1
Campbell, H. E.	1	Heffer, F. C.	5
Campbell, R. M.	4	Hewett, E. A.	1
Carlill, A. J. H.	3	Heyn, H.	1
Cheetham, W. B.	1	Hodges, Rev. H.	1
Clark, J. D.	1	C.	2
Clarke, W. J.	1	How, A. J.	1
Clifford, W. W.	1	Hudson, E. P.	1
Collins, H. B.	1	Hunter, A. C.	1
Cooper, John.	6	Iburg, C. L. H.	25
Cope, W.	1	Iughis, R.	25
Cox, W. W.	1	Jackson, J. A.	1
Cranston, D.	2	Jackson, W. S.	2
Crawford, D. W.	1	Jamieson, W. B.	1

Johnston, J.	1	Prentice, J.	1
Joseph, I.	3	Price, James.	1
Judah, J. E., jun.	14	Pullan, C. A.	3
Kamp, P.	1	Purcell, P. H.	1
Kerr, Crawford D.	1	Quackenbush, E.	2
Kerr, Leonard	1	Ravetta, F.	1
King Hiller, H.	1	Reid, Dr. Duncan	1
King, W. W.	1	J.	1
Kingsmill, T. W.	2	Riva, A.	2
Kinnear, H. R.	2	Robert, Rev. L.	2
Laer, J. L. van.	1	Roberts, J. P.	1
Landale, D.	1	Rocher, L.	6
Lanning, Geo.	1	Rohde, M.	2
Leake, A. R.	1	Ross, A. B.	1
Lembke, Justus.	2	Schnitzler, Dr.	1
Levy, S. A.	1	Scott, J. L.	5
Lewis, R. E.	1	Seegelen, F.	1
Liddell, J.	4	Setiua, B. C.	3
Little, R. W.	1	Shaw, R. W.	1
Little, W. D.	3	Shewan, A.	2
Lubeck, L. A.	1	Shorrocks, S. H.	1
Lyman, V. G.	1	s/Jacob, F. B.	1
MacGillivray, Rev.	1	Skottowe, E. B.	1
Dr.	1	Sledge, H.	1
Macleod, Dr. N.	1	Smith, J. Trevor.	1
Maitland, F. J.	4	Snethlage, H.	1
McLeod, Alex.	7	Snick, Joseph de.	1
McNeill, Duncan.	1	Stewart, J. A.	2
Meyer, Th.	3	Styan, F. W.	1
Midwood, L.	1	Such, H. J.	2
Moller, N. E. A.	1	Symons, H.	1
Moller, Nils	1	Symons, Rev. C.	1
Moore, L.	2	J. F.	1
Moorhead, R. B.	3	Taylor, J. W. R.	2
Mordhorst, O.	5	Thorburn, J. D.	2
Morris, John.	2	Timm, J.	1
Mouly, Fr. V.	5	Tisdall, E. W.	1
Morrison, G. J.	4	Tripp, H. J. H.	1
Muirhead, Rev.	1	Trueman, T. E.	2
Dr. W.	2	Tuthill, R. Price.	1
Murphine, A. R.	1	Twigg, P. O. B. E.	1
Mustard, R. W.	2	Valacios, Rev. F.	1
Nagai, K.	1	C.	1
Nelson, E.	1	Vizeninovich, V.	2
Neubourg, A.	2	Wade, H. T.	1
Noel, Geo. W.	1	Walshe, Rev. W. G.	1
Oberg, G. L.	1	Ware, Rev. J.	1
Ortwin, Mrs. W.	1	Warren, P. L.	1
Osborne, Jas. H.	1	Wedemeyer, C.	1
O'Shea, H.	2	Wehrung, C. R.	1
Ota, Y.	1	Welch, J.	4
Pape, Fr.	1	Wheley, Ed.	9
Parker, Capt. J.	1	Wheelock, T. R.	1
H. P.	1	Wheen, Ed.	1
Parker, Rev. Dr.	1	White-Cooper, A.	1
A. P.	3	S. P.	1
Parsons, E. E.	1	White, E.	1
Pearce, E. C.	2	White, W. A.	1
Pemberton, Thos.	1	Whittall, J.	2
Pereira, H. A.	1	Wilcockson, H.	1
Petersen, J. V.	1	Wilkinson, H. P.	3
Phillip, L.	1	Wilson, A.	2
Phillips, W. T.	2	Wilson, A. S.	2
Poignant, W.	1	Wilson, E. G.	1
Porter, E. E.	2	Wingrove, Geo. R.	2
Pott, Rev. F. L.	1	Wolf, Carl.	1
Hawks	1	Young, J. M.	1

Total—510 votes.

Ratepayers present—236.

Shortly after ten o'clock,

Mr. F. ANDERSON said—The time for the opening of the meeting having now arrived I beg to propose—

Resolution I.—That Mr. Pelham L. Warren, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, be invited to take the Chair.

Mr. R. W. LITTLE—I have great pleasure in seconding that.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and Mr. Pelham Warren accordingly took the Chair.

Mr. F. ANDERSON—I beg to propose—

Resolution II.—That Mr. A. E. Jones be appointed Secretary to the meeting.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT seconded and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. F. ANDERSON—I beg to propose—

Resolution III.—That the annexed Rules of Procedure be adopted for use at this meeting, and remain in force until the next Annual General Meeting.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT seconded and the resolution was agreed to

Mr. F. ANDERSON—I now rise to propose:—

Resolution IV.—That the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1899, be passed.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

I think, gentlemen, it may safely be said that when, through the perspective of years, our successors look back upon that portion of local history in which we of to-day have had our part, the year 1899 will stand out very prominently in the records of Shanghai. It has undoubtedly been marked by a very great advance along the lines laid down by our predecessors, and a measure of success has attended the recent work of civic administration in which, without undue complacency, I believe we may take reasonable pride. In the first place our borders have been enlarged and Municipal control is now exercised over districts, which, under pre-existing conditions, were a source of no little danger and inconvenience to the Community. By the extension of the Settlement and by the simultaneous introduction of much-needed legislation in regard to building regulations, and compulsory powers for acquiring land for roads, and other purposes, the work of future administration becomes greatly simplified and improved, and we may confidently anticipate that the development of Shanghai will proceed under conditions creditable to ourselves, and beneficial to posterity. It must be evident, gentlemen, that a considerable portion of the area recently admitted into our limit will not require development in the immediate future, but it is very satisfactory to know that as such development becomes necessary by process of expansion, it will be possible to carry it out, under favourable and equitable conditions. I think that too much stress can hardly be laid on the importance to this community of the additional Land Regulations, which have become part of our Code of Government since the last annual meeting. The efforts of past Councils in the matter of road extensions have been very greatly restricted, as you are aware, by the absence of power to compel owners, especially natives, to surrender land at a fair value for public purposes, but this defect in our system has at last been remedied, and with the appointment of the Land Commissioners under Land Regulation 6A, the machinery for effecting necessary public improvements may be regarded as complete. The regulation providing for the construction of railways within the Settlement limits is also of great, though less immediate, importance. Finally, the administrative powers which have been acquired in the matter of construction of buildings and drainage cannot fail to produce most salutary effects; absence of legislation in these matters in the past having been a cause of reproach to the Settlement, and resulted in the presence in our midst of many insanitary dwellings and of structures dangerous to life and property.

LOTTERIES AND DOGS.

The amendment of By-law 34, which empowers the Council to register and license Lotteries and Dogs, is also a matter for congratulation, for in the one case the revenue will be increased by effective control of a business which has lately assumed the proportions of a nuisance, and in the other the registration of Dogs, even under the nominal tax of \$1 a year, must rid us of many friendless pariahs in the outlying districts.

THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONS.

The Council's relations with the French Municipality have progressed most satisfactorily along lines of joint action and reciprocity. With the Chinese authorities, there has been the usual recurrence of long settled cases, followed by the usual representations through the Senior Consul. The results have been of the usual vague kind, but on the whole, something has been done to consolidate the position of the Municipality

and to prevent the encroachments of native authority. The removal of the Mixed Court to a more sanitary and suitable building and the better treatment of native prisoners are matters for congratulation, arising directly from the efforts of our predecessors in office. The procedure for arrests and execution of warrants in the Settlement continues to be an object of the Council's close attention and vigilance, as will be seen from the correspondence published in the Report.

VOLUNTEERS.

The Volunteer Corps continues to show satisfactory signs of vitality and increased efficiency. The completion of the Town Hall and provision therein of a gymnasium and Volunteer Club rooms, in addition to the drilling accommodation, has had a good effect in attracting recruits and infusing new interest into the Corps' proceedings. The Maxim guns, intended to replace our obsolete artillery armament, have not yet arrived, but with their receipt the fighting capacity of the corps will be greatly strengthened.

SANITATION.

The sanitary condition of the Settlement, both in the old and new limits, has made considerable progress during the year under review. The improvement of waterways and tidal creeks is a matter which has received and is still receiving special attention, and the work which has been done in this direction, as well as in dealing with stagnant ponds and other nuisances, is evident to those whose business or pleasure takes them into the outlying districts. The ever-increasing work of the Sanitary Branch has been effectively organised under conditions which must have beneficial results on the public health.

TELEPHONES AND TRAMWAYS.

It is unnecessary for me to refer at length to the questions of Tramways and Telephones, since both have recently been dealt with at special meetings, and the results in both cases are generally known to you. The Council hopes that the Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. will justify the confidence shown in its undertaking, and that the future service will be thoroughly satisfactory in every way. A certain amount of inconvenience at the outset must, however, be cheerfully faced since a complete new installation cannot be supplied at short notice. As regards Tramways, it will have been noticed from correspondence recently published in the official minutes, that the Council considers that any further action in this matter must emanate from the Ratepayers, the Council's duties under the resolution of 1898 being concluded by the rejection of the selected tender last autumn.

RE-ASSESSMENT OF LAND.

The re-assessment of land within the foreign limits of the Settlement has been satisfactorily concluded by the Committee appointed under last year's resolution, and an average increase of about 25 per cent in the Land Tax has resulted therefrom. The Report of the Committee, together with the revised schedules of the central district, have been published for general information. The Hongkew schedule will be ready before the end of March. Owing to an oversight no mention of the labours of the Land Assessment Committee has been made in the Report, but the thanks of the ratepayers are due to Messrs. Gratton, Cooper, and Prentice for the very onerous work, and the value of the special knowledge, they have placed at the disposal of the community.

THE McMURRAY CASE.

Our appeal to H.B.M.'s Privy Council in the McMurray case, referring to the interpretation to be placed on Land Regulation VI in the matter of free

surrender of land for public roads, has resulted in judgment being given for the Council. The information has been received by wire, and the judgment itself has not yet come to hand. This decision must be held to be a satisfactory justification of the policy and action of our predecessors in this question, vitally important to the future development of the Settlement.

LAND REGISTRATION.

As regards Land Registration, a matter in which attention has of late years been frequently called to the defects of the existing procedure, the Council has made representations on the subject during the past year to the Consular Body and it is to be hoped that the system as formulated for the issue of title deeds and definition of properties will meet with their approval.

REVENUE.

I now turn to a brief review of the Accounts for 1899. Contrary to the general expectation in March last year, the period under review proved to be one of unusual prosperity. Instead of the falling off in revenue which we anticipated under several of our most important headings a considerable expansion took place. Land Tax and the foreign House Tax are remarkably close to our estimate, but owing to the prosperous condition of trade there has been an increase of Tls. 36,000 in the Native House Tax, Tls. 14,000 in Licenses, and Tls. 60,000 in Wharfage Dues, a most successful result under the new system of collection. In introducing the Budget last year I said that we hoped the receipts from Wharfage Dues would not fall far short of Tls. 100,000, but as a matter of fact they have amounted to Tls. 135,000. This is a form of indirect taxation which bears very lightly on the great majority of residents, and I would point out in passing that if the same revenue had to be derived from direct taxation, such as the foreign and native House Taxes, it would be necessary to impose a rate of nearly 14 per cent instead of 10 per cent. Those who are disposed to grumble at the amount of taxation in the Settlement should bear in mind that it is because of our indirect taxation that they have only to pay a local rate, which is probably lower than in any city of the same size in the world. It is only about one third of the amount which they would have to pay in many English cities. The Market Fees and rent of the Town Hall amount to about Tls. 15,000, and as the whole building cost Tls. 210,000, if we look upon the revenue from these sources as interest on the investment it gives us a return of between 7 and 7½ per cent. Our revenue was further increased by Tls. 30,000 from the Settlement Extension, making the total increase on the estimate in the Budget nearly Tls. 150,000.

EXPENDITURE.

On the Expenditure side the only item which shows a marked reduction on the estimates is the Police—Tls. 14,000. This is explained by the fact that during the year it has not been possible to find suitable recruits, in sufficient number, to keep the force up to the authorised strength. Under Public Works the estimate has been exceeded by Tls. 10,000, caused by unforeseen improvements required at the new gaol, and additional work on outside roads. General charges are also Tls. 10,000 more than the estimate, and were chiefly increased by legal expenses connected with the McMurray case, by expenses incurred in connection with the Telephone and Tramway schemes, and the re-assessment of land.

Under this heading it will be noted that we have erected a memorial window in the Cathedral to the memory of an old and highly valued servant of the Council—the late Mr. R. F. Thorburn.

Under interest, the saving of Tls. 4,000 is due to the fact that loans authorised last year were not raised.

Under Stocks and Stores, there was some unforeseen expenditure, mainly caused by providing new cleaning and scavenging plant for work in the new Extension. The expenditure debited to the Extension area amounts to Tls. 16,000, against an income of Tls. 30,000. With this taxation I propose to deal fully in introducing the Budget for the current year, but I may here observe that the amount shown as expended for the latter half of 1899 on work in the new limits represents only additional expenditure, many such items as outside roads staff, cemeteries, stocks and stores, &c., being already provided for at considerable expense in the general Budget.

The expenditure upon the Nursing Home has been under Tls. 3,000, which is a proof that this valuable institution has continued to increase in public favour and has done excellent work during the year. The new Nursing Home is in course of erection, and when it is completed the Committee hope to be able to hand over to the Ratepayers a building properly equipped, which will have cost between Tls. 40,000 and Tls. 45,000. Under the new conditions of the Home a very much larger number of residents will be able to have the advantage of the services of the nurses than has been possible in the past.

The Pasteur Institute has also done excellent work, no fewer than 12 cases having undergone the treatment, only one of which has not proved successful.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

I have now to refer to the Electric Light Accounts before leaving ordinary expenditure. It will be noticed that we have appropriated the Depreciation Fund to writing down our Machinery and Stores. The Arc Plant, which cost altogether Tls. 84,000, is written down to Tls. 18,000; Incandescent Plant, which cost Tls. 161,000, now stands at Tls. 108,000, of which half is new machinery, erected during the year. We have written down stores Tls. 3,000, and they are returned by the Superintendent as saleable on the ordinary course of business at the amount stated in the accounts. Our overdraft is only Tls. 4,600, which we hope to see soon turned into a credit balance.

The working account for the year shows a profit of Tls. 25,000 after paying all charges except depreciation. Our new machinery is now working, and though the Electric Plant is working smoothly and giving every satisfaction, there has been unfortunately some trouble with the engines. The Council has called for an independent report upon them from local experts, and it is hoped that before long they will be brought into good working order; orders for new installations are being carried out as fast as possible, but until the new system of distribution, referred to in the Report, is completed, it will not be possible to guarantee a continuous day and night supply of current. The Land, Building, and Plant of the Department now represent a total value of Tls. 165,000 in the balance sheet, at which figure they may be regarded as a good asset.

As regards the future, we ought to make more money than we have in the past, but even if we only make Tls. 25,000 a year, in less than two years we ought to be able to write down Arc Plant to nothing and have a credit balance of cash in hand of about Tls. 45,000, which will probably be sufficient to supply an entirely new Arc Plant of greater power than the present one, without increasing our indebtedness; and when this is done, there is no reason why public lighting should not be extended. Before our new incandescent plant arrived, our total capacity

was 10,700 lights; it is now 21,000 lights, and we are actually supplying 13,000.

It may be said that if we can do all this we are charging too much for the light. As to this point, you must bear in mind that we borrow money here at 6 per cent, whereas municipalities in England raise loans at 3 per cent. Our foreign employees are paid on a higher scale than in Europe, and we have had to pay freight and duty on our machinery, but with all these disadvantages our rates are not excessive. Our rate for Arc Lighting is undoubtedly higher than in cities in England which have stations of similar capacity, but their plant is more modern than ours; and it must be borne in mind that we have made a profit of Tls. 12,000 from this branch during the year. When Sir Charles Ross's scheme was submitted to you last year, part of his proposal was that the Council should guarantee to take not less than the present number of Arc Lamps for the future, and pay the present rate for them. If that was the most favourable proposal he could make to the Ratepayers, it is not unfair to assume that the rate is not unduly high. True, the arc light is defective, but as I have pointed out, this can probably be remedied in a couple of years without raising new capital, and if this is the case, then the profits made by the new machinery can be used to repay debentures, or to reduce the charge for lighting.

As regards incandescent lighting, 6d per unit in England is a favourable rate for cities with similar capacity. In America 15 gold cents or 7½d is, I believe, the average rate per unit; in England experiments have been made with the object of testing the respective cost of electric light and gas, and Sir W. H. Preece calculates that 6d per unit is the equivalent of gas at 3s. or \$1.50 per thousand feet; our rate here is 20 candreers per unit which at 2s.8½d exchange is exactly 6d; I may add that Sir Charles Ross proposed to charge the same rate if we had sold the franchise to him; I submit that the reasons I have given you are fair reasons for stating that our charges are not excessive. I would only say that as Shanghai increases there is every prospect of Electric Lighting increasing with it, and that in the not very distant future the Department ought to be a very valuable asset.

ACCOUNTS.

The ordinary account closes with the very substantial surplus of Tls 119,000, which amount has been appropriated to defraying a large part of the expenditure on the Extraordinary account. There remains a deficit of Tls. 43,000 on this account, which is carried forward to 1900, but against this we must set the fact that during the past year the Municipality has carried out many important improvements without incurring any new debts and generally speaking our financial position to-day rests on a much sounder basis than it did a few years ago. During the past year we have spent Tls 65,000 on public buildings, and purchased land, exclusive of roads, to the value of Tls 33,000, adding this much to the realisable assets of the community. We have set aside Tls 45,800 for the redemption of Debentures, and maintained all existing public works, except perhaps Bridges, in a satisfactory state of repair. That the future will entail heavy expenditure for the adequate development of Shanghai, along the lines of a modern city, is inevitable, but it is satisfactory to reflect that with our present moderate scale of taxation we are enabled to husband our resources, to keep down our public debt, and to face our future responsibilities with equanimity. The realisable assets of the Municipality to-day considerably exceed its liabilities.

THE STAFF'S WORK.

The details connected with Settlement Extension have imposed a great deal of

extra work upon the Council's staff and I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to express the Council's appreciation of the excellent way in which the whole work of administration has been done: in this I refer not only to the heads of Departments but also to the whole of the members of the Police, Health Department, Engineer's and Surveyor's Department and the Secretariat.

THE FUTURE.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I think we have every reason to be proud of the success which our Settlement has attained, and whilst it would be idle to deny that the responsibility of conducting our local government is becoming a heavier burden year by year, we can look forward to the future with confidence in the belief that those influences which have stood us in such good stead in the past will long continue to be powerful—the influences of mutual co-operation and common sense. (Applause).

MR. G. J. MORRISON.—On the question of the report and accounts I should like to make one or two remarks. Before coming to the point I wish to speak upon I should like to congratulate the Chairman and the members of the Council upon the very satisfactory state of affairs which has been brought before the notice of the ratepayers in the speech we have just heard. If now and then some of us find fault with the action of the Council in certain small matters, we still must know that these gentlemen devote a great deal of time and a great deal of attention to the public affairs of the community, and certainly during the past year these endeavours have met with a very large amount of success. I want to mention one very small point connected with the accounts. That has been the subject on which I have spoken on one or two previous occasions and I think I am justified in saying that the remarks I have made have led to some pretty good results, because the accounts of receipts and expenditure now placed before the public are such that any man with a little intelligent attention can understand exactly what has been done and can trace the various items from one account to another without the slightest difficulty. There is one item in the accounts called General Balance, to which I take exception. The item was mentioned by Mr. Anderson just now, and I think you will find it upon page 344 at the end of the account of extraordinary income and expenditure. There is a column there which is headed "Debentures Issued." During the last year I am happy to say no debentures have been issued but there are two balances in that column, the last of which is called "Deficit" and amounts to about Tls. 40,000, which, it is said, is carried to the budget of next year. It is also carried to the general balance, and it is there found under the heading—I think—"Extraordinary Income and Expenditure," the last item of the assets. Now, I may be told that that is something like the item "Loss on the year's working," which is sometimes found in the balances of commercial companies among the assets. Well, I say, Sir, it is not the same, and I don't think we are likely to get much closer, reasoning by analogy, I think if you look at that item you will see that it ought not to be there at all. I first thought that possibly the real asset was not the deficit but what we had got in money, but when I look at the other side of the account I find that there is money spent on the land at Wayside. If you look forward among the accounts—I think it is page 362—you will find a statement of Land and Buildings which we have, and the last item is the item for land at Wayside. Although I cannot make these figures exactly agree with the figures for Land and Buildings in the general statement, still apparently the items on the

other side of the account, if gone into—that first item in the balance sheet of land and buildings—and that shows a curious thing, that we get into this general balance items from both sides of the income and expenditure account put on the same side of the balance sheet. Suppose, for a moment, instead of there being a deficit we had issued debentures, which the Council might well have done, because they had authority to do it. If debentures had been issued there would have been no deficit to carry forward of course. The debentures would have appeared in the balance sheet but they would have appeared on the other side of the account, and if the debentures which would have taken the place of the deficit appear among the liabilities then that deficit ought to go there. It appears in the same column of income and expenditure, and it ought to go in the same column with the balance sheet. It looks as if it ought to be moved over there. I think if you will look into that side of the balance sheet you will find that it is there already. You do not see it at first sight, but if you had a sort of financial X-rays, which could be used on accounts, and see the various details with which the entries there are made up—you would get perhaps funny accounts sometimes—I think you would find that deficit in the overdraft on the bank. The fact of the matter is that not having issued debentures we have a greater overdraft at the bank than we should have had otherwise. It appears there, and that is the only place it ought to appear. It has no business among the assets, and its position there makes us appear Tls. 43,000 better off than we are. The general balance ought to be written down to Tls. 237,000. For a community of this sort a matter of Tls. 43,000 is worth looking after. If one of the members of the Finance Committee would look into that matter—for I am sure a slip has been made—it would save time in the future. Well, speaking about the balance sheet, I should like to say one thing. The first item on the balance sheet is Land and Buildings. Now, in the pages following the balance sheet we have a statement of Land and Buildings. That statement seems to have been made up by another department, but, still, it appears in this book and there is no doubt that these two statements ought to be made to agree. The totals do not agree at all. If we look at some of the items we find, in the first page of that statement of Land and Buildings, mention of the items with reference to the electric light works, the Town Hall, and the Pingchao quarry. Evidently in the statement of the balance sheet the Town Hall and other structures are included in the general sum of Land and Buildings; but the electric light works and Pingchao quarry are stated separately, as they ought to be. It is a pity that we get items added together on one page and separated on another, because it makes it impossible to follow the details of the account. The fact that these statements are exactly the same to the last cent, shows the accounts have the same basis. That being so, they ought to be made up so that one can compare details with each other. Then we have got the account of Stock and Stores, which is given in detail, including in the end "Miscellaneous Stores;" and therefore I assume that it is a pretty full account, because they would not put "Miscellaneous Stores" unless they wanted to include everything. The total of that account is about Tls. 126,000, whereas in the general balance the Stock and Stores are put down as Tls. 173,000, from which a depreciation of Tls. 10,000 has been written off, bringing it down to Tls. 163,000. That is to say we have on one page stores worth Tls. 126,000, and on another they are worth Tls. 163,000. I think that is a state of affairs that ought not to occur. Having,

as I say, spoken, I think with some advantage, with regard to the accounts of income and expenditure, I have now taken up the balance sheet. I hope next year we may be able to see a balance sheet in such a condition that when we look at the balance at the bottom, it will show us how much we are to the good—if we are to the good—and how much we are to the good on those items which appear in that balance sheet under the heading, General Balance. Of course we all know, the credit of a municipality depends, not on these items, but on its power of taxation. We have a very considerable power of taxation, but our loans are by no means very great. They are stated each year in such a way that we can see exactly every year what they are, and therefore that we are not getting into any trouble. But this balance sheet, which contains on one side our actual assets, and on the other side our actual liabilities, ought to be drawn up with more care than at present.

Mr. F. ANDERSON—I think we may thank Mr. Morrison for his remarks. There is no doubt something in what he says. It would perhaps have been better if the general balance had been written at Tls. 27,000, instead of putting Tls. 280,000 on the credit side, and Tls. 43,000 on the debit side. If we had omitted the item of Tls. 43,000 the amount would have been as he says.

(To be continued.)

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce held at the offices of the Chamber, 1, Kiukiang Road, on Tuesday, the 6th of March 1900, at 4.30 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. W. D. Little (in the chair), J. C. Bois, C. Brodersen, Wade Gardner, E. A. Hewett, R. Inglis, A. Korff, J. H. McMichael, J. L. Scott, and the Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Pilotage Regulations and Tariff:—The Chairman reminded the members that early in November last a letter had been received from the Senior Consul asking the opinion of the Chamber on the proposed revised Regulations and Tariff, so that the Consular Body might have the advantage of the Chamber's recommendations. The preparation of these Regulations and Tariff was contended to a sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. J. C. Bois, A. Korff and E. A. Hewett, who had devoted a great deal of time and trouble to the consideration of the question, and had at last, in conjunction with the recently formed Licensed Pilots Association and the Harbour Master, completed a scheme which met with the general approval of all concerned, and which the Committee could confidently recommend to the Consular Body, with the exception of Rule 26, which had been reconstructed. It now only remained for the meeting to finally pass the Regulations before them, and authorise the dispatch of covering letters to the Senior Consul, the Harbour Master, and the Licensed Pilots' Association. This was done. The Chairman then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the sub-Committee for their conscientious labour in bringing this business to a conclusion, which was passed unanimously.

Philadelphia Museum:—A diploma of membership that had been sent to the Chamber was laid before the meeting, and a reply of thanks was authorised.

Annual Meeting:—It was decided that the Annual General Meeting should be held during the latter part of April.

SHANGHAI PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Subscribers to the Shanghai Public Library was held at the Library on Friday afternoon. Sir Nicholas J. Hannen presided, and there were also present Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, the Rev. G. H. Bondfield, Mr. C. D. Kerr, and Mr. P. E. Beeston (hon. secretary and treasurer).

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said that with regard to the remark that the balance at the bank would be absorbed by the payment to be made to the London agent for books, it must be remembered that there were subscriptions coming in, so that the Library would be in funds for all necessary purposes. There was also the Municipal grant to be considered, so that they would be able to go on as in the past.

The Rev. G. H. Bondfield asked whether the membership was increasing.

Mr. C. D. Kerr said it was about the same, with very little difference from year to year.

Mr. F. S. A. Bourne seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. C. D. Kerr for discharging the duties of secretary and treasurer. There had been a good deal of work to be done, for it had been necessary to bring the affairs of the Library from their old state to the present, when the work was up-to-date. He thought the Library would continue to prosper, as he was sure Mr. Kerr had done his best to ensure during the time he had been in office.

The Rev. G. H. Bondfield seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. C. D. Kerr returned thanks.

The Chairman then brought up the question of the committee, and it was finally decided unanimously, on the motion of Mr. C. D. Kerr, seconded by the Rev. G. H. Bondfield that the present committee—Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, the Rev. H. C. Hodges, Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, and Mr. C. D. Kerr—be re-elected.

The Rev. G. H. Bondfield said that the present catalogue was quite out of date, and was the one conspicuous defect in the arrangement of the library. There would be great difficulty in making this new catalogue, but it would have to be faced some time.

Mr. F. S. A. Bourne remarked that a great deal of sorting out would be necessary, as the Library at present contained a great deal of rubbish.

Mr. C. D. Kerr said that there was a possibility of their having to move from those premises. That would be the best opportunity for the rejection of such books.

It was agreed finally that the Rev. H. C. Hodges and the Rev. G. H. Bondfield should go through the books, and make a list of those they considered should be rejected, as a preliminary step to the drawing up of a new catalogue. This list will then be submitted to the Committee for final decision.

This ended the business of the meeting.

REPORT

for the year ending 31st December, 1899, for presentation to the Subscribers at the General Meeting on Friday 9th March, 1900.

The Committee have the pleasure to present the Report and Accounts for the year 1899.

The Balance at the credit of the Library on 31st December, at the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, was Tls. 481.75, but this will be more than absorbed by a sum due to the London Agent for Books supplied.

Owing to the recent meeting held on 7th November, 1899, there is little of interest to bring before the Subscribers. Another change

in the secretaryship has been effected, as Mr. Kerr resigned in February, not being able to give the time and attention required to the Library. Mr. P. E. Beeston has therefore been appointed Honorary Secretary.

During the past year 296 volumes have been added to the Library and a few additional papers subscribed for as mentioned in the last Report.

Shanghai, 1st March 1900.

NICHOLAS J. HANNEN,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1899.

Expenditure.	Tls.
To Books and Periodicals	690.48
„ Librarian and Assistant, Salaries	840.00
„ Rent	600.00
„ Boys' and Coolies' Wages	149.15
„ Printing and Advertising	87.36
„ Lettering, numbering, etc.	119.26
„ Gas, Coal, etc.	202.70
„ Repairs	19.81
„ Water, Oil, etc.	15.19
„ Insurance	43.20
„ Postages and Petty-cash	43.54
„ Balance—Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	481.75
„ Balance with Secretary	10.62
	Tls. 3,303.06

Revenue.	Tls.
By Balance	23.14
„ Subscriptions	2,248.11
„ Municipal Grant	1,000.00
„ Lost Books and Expenses Re-funded	30.50
„ Interest	1.31
	Tls. 3,303.06

C. D. KERR,
Hon. Secretary.

Audited and found correct,

P. E. BEESTON.

Shanghai, 31st December 1899.

THE YAH LOONG COTTON SPINNING CO., LTD.

The fourth ordinary meeting of this company was held yesterday afternoon at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Fearon, Daniel & Co.). Mr. C. W. Wrightson (Chairman) presided, and there were present Messrs. John Liddell, J. R. Twentymann, Ch. R. Wehrung, Wong Kiah-zur (Directors), Henry Morris, Drummond Hay, A. R. Murphine, J. Chambers, Ah Hee, J. B. Walsh, E. L. Collingwood, H. A. de Figueiredo, and E. Guillemin.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said—The Report and Accounts having been in your hands for some time we may, I presume, take them as read. I am pleased to be able to point to a more satisfactory statement of Accounts than hitherto we have been able to lay before you. It will be seen that the balance standing at the debit of Profit and Loss Account on 31st December, 1898, was Tls. 44,952.61, which amount we have now been able to reduce to Tls. 25,983.10, after making provision for depreciation to the extent of Tls. 10,000. Agency Expenses and Directors' and Auditor's Fees require no comment, and interest account is represented by the sum paid to the Bank as interest on our overdraft: this may strike some as being particularly heavy, but it must be remembered that our Capital subscribed is less by Tls. 178,400 than the authorised Capital of the Company, and though this shortage means an increased charge for interest for the present, once the Company is placed on a dividend paying basis, the disadvantage of working with a smaller capital than was intended will not be so apparent. The sum set apart for depreciation is, in the opinion of the Directors, ample, and insures the maintenance of the machinery to its full efficiency and value. I may mention

That in order to provide for the erection of the new machinery, the interior of the Mill was practically reconstructed and the existing machinery thoroughly overhauled by an experienced fitter, such cost of labour having been absorbed in ordinary working expenses. The Working Account for the year shows a balance of Tls. 53,423.73 which cannot be considered otherwise than satisfactory, when it is borne in mind that only since July last has the Mill been in complete working order. The item of Rental represents six months' rent of the Silk Filature, also rents accruing from the Ginning Mill. Turning to the Balance Sheet the Liabilities are clearly shown and seem to require no further explanation. The Assets, however, call for some remarks, inasmuch as the cost of 4,334 additional Spindles and requisite preparatory machinery has resulted in a total expenditure of Tls. 94,000 odd, thus making our Cotton Mill and Filature Machinery stand at Tls. 421,773.66, and judging from results so far obtained, we do not think shareholders will have reason to regret the increased outlay. Buildings have been increased by some Tls. 8,000, which represents the cost of adding a new storey to the Mill, also new tool and press packing house, and mechanics' shops, and part cost of new Cotton Godown. The stock of Yarn has been realised since the closing of the accounts, and the values as set down of other stocks have been fully verified. I may remark, that the amount stated as the value of Cotton in stock, points to small holdings, but am pleased to say fairly large contracts were entered into some months since, at comparatively cheap prices, and these are now in course of delivery. With these remarks I have no more to add in connection with the accounts, except that should fuller information be desired, I am willing to reply to any questions. The Directors have seen no reason to resume night work, and throughout the year the Mill has only been operated during the day. The initial difficulties in regard to labour have entirely disappeared and no further interruption to the running of the Mill is expected. The present satisfactory out-turn points to the fact that in Mr. Walsh we possess a Manager who, in addition to his many other qualifications, knows how to handle his labour in a satisfactory manner. I can confidently describe the condition of the Mill as excellent throughout, and the quality of our Yarn leaves nothing to be desired. Before concluding I may refer to the outlook of the Cotton Mill industry in Shanghai. At present, as you are aware, the high cost of the raw material is somewhat menacing to its prosperity, but the effect of such advance in prices will undoubtedly lead to increased production of the native staple, and advices from the States point to preparations for planting being on a gigantic scale, which it is presumed will lead to a record crop. In view therefore, of plentiful supplies we shall doubtless see lower prices ruling for the new Cotton, and with the better knowledge we now possess, enabling us to practise economies in order to keep down the cost of manufacture, we look forward with confidence to the successful development of our enterprise, especially as markets for local spinnings are now firmly established.

There being no questions, The Chairman proposed, Mr. Ch. R. Wehrung seconded, and it was carried unanimously—

That the Report and Accounts for the period ending the 31st December, 1899, as printed and presented, be approved and passed.

Mr. J. Chambers proposed, and Mr. Drummond Hay seconded—

That Mr. J. R. Twentyman be re-elected a Director of the Company.

Upon the proposition of Mr. A. R. Murphine, seconded by Mr. E. Guillemin, it was resolved.—

That the appointment of Mr. Ch. R. Wehrung to be a Director of the Company be hereby confirmed.

Proposed by Mr. E. L. Collingwood, and seconded by Mr. J. Chambers, it was agreed.—

That Mr. Geo. R. Wingrove be appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. Drummond Hay suggested that a vote of thanks should be accorded to the staff for the way in which the affairs of the Company had been conducted. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman thanked the meeting for its expression of confidence.

Reports.

THE SHANGHAI TUG-BOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

REPORT

of the Directors for Presentation at the Fourteenth General Meeting of the Shareholders to be held at the office of the Agents, on Tuesday, the 20th March 1900, at 4 p.m.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit the Audited Accounts for the year 1899.

The amount at the credit of the Profit and Loss Account is Tls. 38,534.21. Three Interim Dividends of Tls. 5.00 per Share have been paid, amounting to Tls. 15,000, leaving a balance of Tls. 23,534.21. The Directors propose to appropriate this balance as follows:—

Add to Reserve Fund	Tls. 9,500.00
Write off for Depreciation	6,600.00
Pay a Final Dividend of 5 Tls. per Share (making in all 20% for the year)	5,000.00
And carry the balance to New Account	2,434.21
	Tls. 23,534.21

The Superintendent's Reports on the Tugs *Samson*, *Fuhlee*, *Rocket*, *Fokelin* and the Tender *Victoria* are satisfactory.

Directors—Mr. C. Buchanan, in accordance with the Articles of Association, retires, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Auditor—Mr. H. J. Limby also offers himself for re-election.

JOHN PRENTICE,
Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT,

From 1st January to 31st December 1899.

Dr.	Tls.
To Tug-boats' portage bills	19,179.76
„ Superintending Engineer and shore staff wages	2,956.80
„ Wages of carpenter, watchman and sampanmen	460.64
„ 2,824 tons coal	19,609.45
„ Pilotage up-river	600.00
„ Repairs account	2,874.29
„ Deck and engine-room stores	2,220.98
„ Medical attendance	200.00
„ Directors' fees	640.00
„ Auditor's fees	150.00
„ Godown rent and Fire insurance 1 year	351.09
„ Telephone	60.00
„ Sundry charges	1,428.36
„ Insurance on hulls, etc. of tug-boats, etc.	5,000.80
„ Agents' remuneration, office rent and staff	4,801.68
„ Balance transferred to Profit and Loss Account	37,969.52
	Tls. 98,503.37

Cr.

By Earnings of tug-boats, etc.	96,033.33
„ Interest account	2,470.04
	Tls. 98,503.37

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls.
To 1st Interim Dividend paid 21st June 1899	5,000.00
„ 2nd Interim Dividend paid 25th September 1899	5,000.00
„ 3rd Interim Dividend paid 20th December 1899	5.00 0.00
„ Balance	23,534.21
	Tls. 38,534.21
Cr.	Tls.
By Balance	21,475.13
Less—Final Dividend for 1898	5,000.00
Transferred to Reserve Fund	7,590.00
Written off for Depreciation	6,293.96
Bonus to Working Staff	2,116.48
	20,910.44
„ Balance Working Account 1899	564.69
	Tls. 38,534.21

BALANCE SHEET.

Assets.	Tls.
Dr.	Tls.
To Wrecking Apparatus	4,000.00
„ Tug-boats <i>Samson</i> , <i>Fuhlee</i> , <i>Rocket</i> , <i>Fokelin</i> and the Tender <i>Victoria</i>	128,000.00
„ Deposit Account, Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	31,000.00
„ Municipal Debentures, 6%	14,000.00
„ Shanghai Gas Company Debentures, 6%	10,000.00
„ 65½ tons Coal	4,173.28
„ Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, Current Account	13,311.58
„ Morris & Co.	1,549.35
	Tls. 206,034.21
Liabilities.	Tls.
Cr.	Tls.
By Shares Account	100,000.00
„ Reserve Fund	82,500.00
„ Profit and Loss Account	23,534.21
	Tls. 206,034.21

E. & O. E.

Shanghai, 1st March 1900.

JOHN PRENTICE,
WM. DOBIE,
C. BUCHANAN, } **Directors.**

MORRIS & Co.,
Agents.

I hereby certify that I have examined all the Accounts of the Company, comparing them with the Vouchers and Bank Pass Book, and have found the same to be all in order.

H. J. LIMBY,
Auditor.

NEVER DESPAIR of being able to overcome the troubles of this world, for they will disappear like dew before the sun if we only look them squarely in the face. If you are afflicted with any bodily disease, give Holloway's Pills and Ointment a trial; they will afford speedy relief, and in time effect a cure. They are the best known remedies for all complaints. During the summer months many people are afflicted with bowel and liver disorders, diarrhoea, dysentery, colic, low fevers, etc. These remedies are unequalled in such cases, and should therefore be the *Vade Mecum* of all who value sound health. They may be procured from all chemists and medicine vendors.

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17th Oct., 1898.

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL HOSPITAL.

REPORT.

The Receipts of the Hospital for the year 1899 amount to Tls. 37,646.68 being Tls. 8,185.08 greater than for 1898. On the Expenditure side, *House Expenses* are larger by Tls. 2,274.80, due to the increased cost of nearly all supplies; and *Salaries* by Tls. 620.31, owing to a large staff of Sisters, and a small advance in the remuneration of the late Secretary during the latter months of his life. On the other hand *General Charges* are smaller by Tls. 712.23, and *Medicine* by Tls. 1,412.68; there is still, however, an amount of Tls. 770.00 to pay for the passage of the three Sisters who arrived from home towards the end of the year. No surgical Instruments being required from home during the year, accounts for the reduction in the *Medicine* account. The amount written off *Furniture* has been Tls. 538.02 *Suspense Account*.—On the completion of the improvements and extensions to Buildings, the sum standing to debit has been transferred to *Land and Buildings*. The Receipts (Treatment Account, balance of Grant from the French Municipality Interest and Disinfecting Stove, less the difference between the Grant from the General Municipality and the amount expended) are..... Tls. 37,381.42.10
And Donations..... „ 265.26.00

Tls. 37,646.68
Against in 1898..... „ 29,461.60
The Expenditure (including the amount written off Furniture) amount to..... „ 29,143.54
Against in 1898 „ 28,559.18
The "Mortgage" still stands at „ 34,000.00
And the "Fixed Deposits" at..... „ 5,000.00
The "Capital" account has been credited with „ 8,320.63
This amount is larger than has been the case for some years back, but is not so much due to the increased charges now made for treatment, as to the longer time the first and second-class patients have occupied the wards.

The Governors beg to acknowledge with thanks the following Donations.—

From A. R. Leake Esq., balance of boxing contest..... \$201.75.
„ Captain Sutton „ 23.40.
„ Mr. Soliveiras „ 25.00.
„ The Magistrate of Mixed Court. „ 30.00.
„ The Consul-General for France. £6.13.4.

Mrs. John Cooper very kindly presented to the Lady Superior fifty dollars to be used for the benefit of the poorer patients, and fifty dollars was given by another lady towards the Christmas dinner for the same class. These contributions were much appreciated.

The whole of the new buildings, rearranging of certain parts of the old Hospital, and General Improvements have now been completed, and are proving of very decided benefit to the patients, and will, it is trusted, meet the requirements of the Community for some years.

In consequence of the increased number of patients, and the extra work entailed, the Physicians suggested an increase in the staff of Sisters having a practical knowledge of Hospital work. After very careful consideration it was decided to obtain from home five additional ones, three, of whom have already arrived, and two more are expected. There is now a regular night service, two Sisters being specially appointed for all-night duty.

It has been decided on the recommendation of the Physicians that a special fee should be charged for the performance of the more important surgical operations.—This has only been sanctioned on the distinct understanding that, in no case will it affect the free and poor patients, and that the Governors reserve to themselves the right to remit such charge on any special case being brought before them.

The following changes in the Board of Governors have taken place during the year Mr. Pelham Warren has succeeded Mr. Byron Brennan, and Dr. Schnitzler, Dr. Knappe. On Mr. Alford's retiring from China, Mr. McEwen took his place for a short time, and on his leaving for home Mr. R. Inglis was appointed. The Rev. Pere Meuniot has returned to

France, and his place will be taken by Mr. P. Brunat. The Governors have to deplore the death of Dr. Zedelius, whose long service had been of great advantage to the Hospital and which was thankfully acknowledged at their meeting of 15th March. Dr. Paulun was appointed in his place, and will resume his seat on his return from home in a short time.

On Dr. E. E. Henderson retiring from China, Dr. R. J. Marshall was appointed Assistant Surgeon.

Mr. Alexander Thurburn, who had been Secretary and Treasurer since 1874, died on 6th September, to the sincere regret of every one connected with the Hospital. The Governors desire to record their appreciation of the very efficient service he ever gave. Mr. J. D. Thurburn has been appointed in his place.

The Governors have much pleasure in thanking Mr. Rufus F. Eastlack for kindly auditing the accounts.

A. McLEOD,
Chairman.

Shanghai, 8th February, '900.

The number of patients admitted to the Shanghai General Hospital during the year was 924 against 1,013 in 1898 and 848 in 1897.

Nationality of Patients.

British	381
French	58
German	117
American	65
Others	303
	924

In the first-class were treated at Tls. 3 and 4 a day 176 for 3,052 days,

In the second class were treated at Tls. 2 and 2.75 a day 216 „ 3,787 „

In the third class were treated at \$1.50 and 1.75 a day 532 „ 10,795 „

Total.....924 patients.

The total earnings from this source, including the Municipal Grants, being.....Tls. 36,778.67.

The admissions for each month of the year were:—

January	91	July	74
February	75	August	92
March	68	September	91
April	66	October	99
May	70	November	69
June.....	76	December.....	53

Number of Admissions into the Free Beds:—

General Municipality	109
French Municipality	69
Ladies' Bazaar Fund.....	43

The Expenditure during the year (including the amount written off Furniture), amounts to Tls. 29,143.54
Giving an average per diem of 79.84

The Actual House Expenses amount to 17,694.89
Giving an average per diem of..... 48.20

The amount written off Furniture is 538.02

The Amount added to Capital, being Excess of Income over Expenditure is 8,320.03

J. D. THORBURN.
Secretary

SHANGHAI GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Profit and Loss Account from 1st January to 31st December, 1899.

To HOUSE EXPENSES—	Tls.
Amount transferred being Dr. balance—Less Stores in hand valued at Tls. 300	17,694.89

To GENERAL CHARGES—

Amount transferred being Dr. balance, Advertising, Printing, Stationery, Tls. 257.61; Telephone, Tls. 98.50; Fire Insurance, Tls. 183.27; Shroff's Wages and Sampan Hire, Tls. 183.21; Municipal Taxes, Tls. 225.70; Chinese Government Land Tax, Tls. 28.85; Funeral Expenses Sister Vincent, Tls. 42.12; Box for Papers, Tls. 1.50	1,029.94
--	----------

„ MEDICINE—

Amount transferred being Dr. balance—Less Stock in hand valued at Tls. 500	1,733.06
--	----------

„ FURNITURE—

Amount written off	538.02
--------------------------	--------

„ SALARIES—

Amount transferred being Dr. balance	7,618.03
--	----------

„ RENT—

Amount transferred being Dr. balance	250.00
--	--------

„ GENERAL MUNICIPALITY—

Difference between Annual Grant of Tls. 2,000 and amount expended on poor patients at \$1 per head ..	82.75
---	-------

„ REPAIRS TO PROPERTY ACCOUNT—

Amount transferred being Dr. balance	185.85
--	--------

„ CAPITAL ACCOUNT—

Amount transferred being Excess of Earnings over Expenditure	8,320.63
	Tls. 37,464.17

By. TREATMENT ACCOUNT—

Being total Earnings from Patients during the year Less amount written off.....	36,723.39
---	-----------

„ FRENCH MUNICIPALITY—

Being difference between Annual Grant of Tls. 1,000 and amount expended on poor patients, at \$1 per head	138.03
---	--------

„ INTEREST—

Amount transferred being Cr. balance	597.25
--	--------

„ DISINFECTING STOVE—

Amount transferred being Cr. balance	5.50
	Tls. 37,464.17

MEMO. OF SALARIES.

14 Sisters Tls. 2,550.00, Physicians Tls. 2,500.00, Secretary Tls. 1,450.00, European Warders Tls. 1,118.03.

SHANGHAI, 25th January, 1900.

J. D. THORBURN,
Secretary.

Audited and found correct.

R. F. EASTLACK.

Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1899.

ASSETS.

SECRETARY—	Tls.
Debit balance	2,368.74

LADY SUPERIOR—

Debit balance in books	10.97
------------------------------	-------

PATIENTS—

Amount owing by patients remaining in Hospital on 31st December.....	1,284.92
--	----------

HOUSE EXPENSES—

Valuation of Stores in hand	300.00
-----------------------------------	--------

MEDICINE—

Valuation of Stock in hand	500.00
----------------------------------	--------

FURNITURE—

Amount standing at Debit in books.....	3,500.00
--	----------

HONGKONG AND SHAI BANK, CORPORATION.

Current Account	1,936.38
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Fixed Deposit	5,000.00
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LAND AND BUILDINGS ACCOUNT—

Original Cost of, less amount written off for depreciation of buildings (Tls. 10,659.92).....	16,758.41
---	-----------

Cost of new build-
ings and altera-
tions in the last
eight years 46,320.67

63,079.08

LAND PURCHASE ACCOUNT—

Cost of Lots Cadastral 352
and 354 to date 47,777.52

Tls. 125,757.61

LIABILITIES.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT—

7½.

Amount standing at credit
in books 71,732.42

DONATION ACCOUNT—

Amount standing at credit
in books, and invested in
Land and Buildings com-
prising the Hospital.....16,125.19

CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT—

Amount set aside to meet
the passage home and one
year's salary of the Sisters
as per agreement 3,900.00

FIVE PER CENT LOAN ACCOUNT—

Contracted to meet part
payment of Cadastral Lots
352 and 354 34,000.00

Tls. 125,757.61

SHANGHAI, 25th January, 1900.

J. D. THORNTON,
Secretary.

Audited and found correct, and in conform-
ity with the Vouchers and Bank Pass Book.
R. F. EASTLACK.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1899.

The number of patients treated during the
year in the wards of the Hospital was 974,
being 115 more than in 1897, and 82 less than
in 1898. Of these 50 remained over from
1898, and at the end of 1899 there were 46
patients still in the Hospital.

There were 62 deaths during the year, in-
cluding 6 deaths of patients admitted in the
preceding year, making a mortality of 6.3
per cent.

The admissions for smallpox, occurring
chiefly in the first half of the year, were much
larger than in previous years, the figures be-
ing 48 for 1899, 13 for 1898.

77 cases, with 5 deaths, are registered as
due to typhoid fever, and 20 cases, with 5
deaths, as due to pneumonia. In both in-
stances the figures considerably exceed those
of previous years. There were no cholera
cases admitted.

Number of Patients Entered, Discharged
and Died in each Month of 1899.

Month.	Entered.	Discharged.	Died.
January	91	78	9
February	75	66	9
March	68	74	6
April	64	56	2
May	70	77	4
June	76	74	4
July	74	67	3
August	92	90	5
September	91	70	6
October	99	87	5
November	69	65	8
December	53	68	2
	924	886	62

"WOT CHER, MATE?" may be a rough
form of salutation, but the kindness of its
intention cannot be questioned; therefore it
may not be out of place to adopt it here.
Those who may be suffering from bad health
can be speedily relieved from their misery
by the aid of Holloway's Pills and Ointment.
They are equally good for the old, young,
or middle-aged. For weakness, lassitude,
fever, diarrhoea, dysentery, measles, croup
and similar complaints, these medicines can-
not be equalled; whilst for skin diseases,
sores, ulcers, scrofula and old wounds, they
have effected cures in cases declared hopeless
by eminent medical men. Full directions
as to the use of these remarkable remedies
are given to purchasers.

Amusements.

THE A. D. C. MATINÉE
AT THE LYCEUM.

HENRY IV. PART I.

Characters.

Henry, Prince of Wales.....Mr. C. Wedemeyer.
Poinsot.....W. H. Lewis.
Sir John Falstaff.....W. G. Bayne.
Bardolph.....A. L. Hall.
Peto.....E. E. Parsons.
Gadshill.....E. Ormiston.
Drawer.....F. A. Sampson.
Sheriff.....Zealand.
1st Traveller.....A. E. Laming.
2nd.....G. F. Lanning.
Hostess.....Mrs. Valentine.

LITTLE TODDLEKINS.

Characters.

Mr. Jones Robinson.....
Brownsmith.....Mr. W. G. Bayne.
Barnaby Babbicombe.....
of Babbicombe Bay.....A. L. Hall.
Captain Littlepop.....E. Ormiston.
Amanthis.....Mrs. Valentine.
Annie Babbicombe.....White-Cooper.
Susan.....Wedemeyer.

There could be hardly a greater contrast
than between the two playwrights whose
work was drawn upon for Tuesday (6th)
afternoon's entertainment, Shakespeare and
Charles Mathews; though, as a matter of
fact, the latter was a plagiarist, *Little
Toddlekings* being only an adaptation of the
French piece that was played here not long
ago by the Société Dramatique Française,
Une Fille Embrassée. The contrast,
however, as contrasts do, made the per-
formance the more delightful. Many years
have passed since the three Falstaff scenes
from *Henry IV* were given in Shanghai
by the A. D. C., when Mr. Bayne, the
Falstaff on Tuesday, was the slim young
prince, and Mr. Stephenson, the greatest
melodramatic actor we have ever had in
Shanghai, the Falstaff. Those who saw
Mr. Stephenson in the part will never
forget the humorous unctious and the
twinkle with which he gave the words:
"By the Lord, I knew ye as well as he
that made ye;" it was better than Phelps,
undoubtedly the best professional repre-
sentative of Falstaff in modern times.

But reminiscences are apt to flatter,
and we do not doubt that if we could see
Mr. Stephenson's Falstaff again to compare
it with Mr. Bayne's, we should find that
the latter was every whit as good a render-
ing. Mr. Bayne, to use the current
phrase, enters thoroughly into the skin
of the fat knight; he is Falstaff,
greedy, thirsty, irresponsible, witty, un-
scrupulous, fat old Jack, magnanimous
in his very cowardice. What a lovable
old wastrel he is, so loveable with all his
faults that such a stern and self-sufficient
old school-marm as Queen Elizabeth
herself insisted on Shakespeare's writing
another play of which he was to be the
hero; and to this we are said to owe *The
Merry Wives of Windsor*. To the younger
members of the A. D. C. we would specially
commend the study of Mr. Bayne's deli-
very; there was not a word that was not
audible in every corner of the house;
while his naturalness and the ease of all
his gestures and byplay completed a really
perfect rendering.

Mr. Wedemeyer had no light task before
him in his endeavour to present the young
Prince Henry, and he succeeded admirably.
Splendidly made up, he was the jaunty,
light-hearted young gentleman of the
period, joining Falstaff and his crew in their
villainies just for the fun of it, but with
the good metal underneath showing through
at times, as in the very well-delivered
soliloquy at the end of the first scene. Mr.
W. H. Lewis was very natural and easy as
Poinsot, the other parts were adequately

filled, and the scenery was all that was
necessary, the Board's Head at Eastcheap
being a capital set. The A. D. C. cannot
give us too much Shakespeare.

The second part of the programme was
Little Toddlekings, and success attended
this too. The farce is so good, the book so
filled with good lines, that, in the hands of
capable actors, it is a cause of laughter
unending. Mr. W. G. Bayne, as Jones
Robinson Brownsmith, a widower plagued
with a step-daughter eight years older
than himself, whose apparition warns off
those many charming young ladies to
whom he has offered his widowed
hand and comfortable fortune, was excel-
lent. Every telling point in his lines
was made the most of, and at all
times he held the house completely. The
character next in importance was Amanthis,
the lady of advanced youth, the "48-
pounder" whose recurrent discharge wrecked
her stepfather's hopes so often. Mrs.
Valentine was very good, though her
appearance, it must be confessed, did not
make for verisimilitude. When Captain
Littlepop finds it impossible to make a
proposal for her hand—having seen her
face—and expresses an exaggerated and
comic horror at the sight, one is justified
in demanding that some cause for his
consternation shall be evident. This was
not so. Mrs. Valentine looked a hoyden of
thirty, not of forty-eight. Otherwise she
played extremely well. Mr. A. L. Hall,
as Barnaby Babbicombe, added another
character to the long list which is
his. He made the old gentleman
so amiable, so amusingly full of his
ailments, to unaffectedly innocent, that
one believed in his proposal for the hand
of Amanthis—in order that his nerves
might be soothed by cribbage. Mrs.
White-Cooper, in the *ingénue* part of
Annie Babbicombe, looked and acted
gracefully, and Mrs. Wedemeyer was a
convincing and attractive Susan. The part
of Captain Littlepop, much given to cigars
and the worship of "Kitty, the little
milliner," was played by Mr. E. Ormiston,
who on Thursday made his first appearance
in Shanghai. He played easily and
well, and it is to be hoped that he will be
seen again. It is interesting to note that
Little Toddlekings was last seen in Shanghai
in April, 1879, when Amanthis was played
by Miss Dora Monday, whose name is
known to everyone who takes an interest
in theatricals. At a previous representa-
tion of it by the A. D. C., Mr. Bayne the
Brownsmith of Thursday was the little
Toddlekings.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many wonderful
developments of science, no rival has yet
been found to take the place of Holloway's
Pills and Ointment as reliable and speedy
cures for the various diseases with which
we are all liable to be afflicted. The Oint-
ment is universally acknowledged to be a
certain remedy for sore throat, bronchitis,
coughs, colds, glandular swellings, gout,
rheumatism, and all skin diseases. The
Pills have justly earned a world-wide reputa-
tion for all female complaints; for infantile
disorders they are invaluable, and they are
an unfailing remedy for all disorders affecting
the liver and stomach. It would be difficult
indeed, to name a complaint for which both
the Pills and Ointment are not beneficial.
Thousands of people in all parts of the world
can testify to their merits. They are suitable
for any climate or season of the year.

160c-99 234

17th Oct., 1898.

SHANGHAI PAPER HUNT CLUB.

ANNUAL RACES.

Judges—Messrs. A. McLEOD and F. J. MAITLAND.

Clerk of the Scales—Mr. F. GOVE.

Starters—Messrs. E. S. PERROTT and H. E. KEYLOCK.

Timekeeper—Mr. A. E. JONES.

The annual races of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club, which took place on Saturday afternoon, were a distinct success. The weather was, on the whole, favourable. The sun streamed on the crowded enclosure but coldly, for the wind blew raw and fresh during the afternoon. The course was in splendid condition, and the racing of the best. There were one or two surprises; *Chessy's* victory over *Bonaventure* in the Tunsin Plate was not expected nor was the triumph of *Myosotis* in the Hark Forard Stakes. This last, by the way, resulted in an exceptional dividend, \$118.60. Perhaps the best race of the meeting was the Welter Steeplechase, a new event on the programme. It seemed at first that *Black Chief* was to have things all his own way, for he was leading easily as the wall was reached. Dr. Keylock, who was riding *Midlander*, then sat down to it, however, and brought the pony along splendidly gaining at every stride. Finally he won, cheered to the echo, by a length. The remainder of the races, though good, do not call for special mention. It says much for them that though, in some instances, the field was small, get the interest did not flag for a moment. The care which the Stewards and officials gave to their duties cannot be too highly commended, since it resulted in a very pleasant day for so many members, and their wives and friends. The detailed results were:—

1.—THE TUNSIIN PLATE.—A Sweepstakes of \$3 each, with \$10 added. First pony to receive 70 per cent, the second 20 per cent, and third pony 10 per cent. Catch weights over 11st. Ponies that have won any official flat race 7lbs. extra. Owners up allowed 5lbs. Entrance fee \$3.—One mile and a half.

Mr. P. Dietrich's dun <i>Chessy</i> (Owner)	11	2...1
" C. R. Burkill's chestnut <i>Corkscrew</i> (Owner)	11	2 2*
" O. Middleton's bay <i>Bonaventure</i> (Mr. Crighton)	11	0 2*
" N. E. Moller's grey <i>Ladysmith</i> (Owner)	10	9...0
" H. E. Campbell's grey <i>Merrylegs</i> (Owner)	11	2...0

* Dead heat.

Bonaventure took the lead at the outset, and held it till the wall was reached, but then Mr. Dietrich called on *Chessy*, who responded gamely, and won the race by four lengths.

Time, 3mins. 20secs.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Bonaventure* 38, *Merrylegs* 18, *Chessy* 18, *Corkscrew* 14, *Ladysmith* 3.—Total 91=\$455. Dividend \$22.70.

2.—THE JORROCKS CUP.—Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$20, third pony \$10. Winners of any Paper Hunt or Steeplechase excluded. Catch Weights over 11st. Entrance fee \$3.—A Steeplechase, from the Widow's Monument once round and in.

Messrs. E. White & P. A. Crosthwaite's black <i>Brutus</i> (Mr. H. E. Campbell)	11	0...1
Mr. P. A. Crosthwaite's chestnut <i>Alfonso</i> (Owner)	11	11...2
" A. W. Burkill's skewbald <i>Yule</i> (Mr. C. R. Burkill)	11	0...3

Luck had much to do with the result of this race, for *Yule* was leading well when he fell. *Brutus* then took first place, and held it to the end, with *Alfonso* a good second.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Yule* 77, *Brutus* 29, *Alfonso* 10.—Total 116=\$580. Dividend \$18.

3.—THE HUNG JAO PLATE.—A Sweepstakes of \$3 each, with \$10 added. First pony to receive 70 per cent, second pony 20 per cent, and third pony 10 per cent. Winners of any official flat race excluded. Catch weights over 10st. 7lb.—One mile and a quarter.

Mr. H. E. Campbell's grey <i>Merrythought</i> (Mr. Möller)	10	9...1
" Eskmann's grey <i>Queen Sabie</i> (Mr. Dietrich)	10	7...2
" W. Scott's chestnut <i>Tempest</i> (Mr. H. E. Campbell)	10	7...3
" C. R. Burkill's grey <i>Myosotis</i> (Mr. A. W. Burkill)	10	7...0
Messrs. A. McInnes & S. Deacon's blue dun <i>Blue Ribbon</i> (Mr. McInnes)	10	12...0
Mr. L. C. B. Edmonston's brown <i>The Pirate</i> (Mr. A. Crighton)	10	7...0
" E. S. Perrott's bay <i>Rosebud</i> (Mr. Midwood)	10	9...0
" O. Middleton's grey <i>Hard Luck</i> (Mr. P. Crighton)	10	10...0

From the start the issue of this race was apparent. *Merrythought* sprang to the front, and gradually increased a good lead as the race progressed. Finally it won by many lengths. A length separated second and third.

Time, 2mins. 45 2-5secs.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Myosotis* 44, *Rosebud* 37, *Tempest* 34, *Queen Sabie* 29, *Hard Luck* 25, *Merrythought* 18, *Blue Ribbon* 4.—Total 191=\$955. Dividend—\$47.70.

4.—THE WELTER STEEPLCHASE.—A Sweepstakes of \$3 each with \$10 added. First pony to receive 70 per cent, second pony 20 per cent, and third pony 10 per cent. Catch weights over 13st. An open Steeplechase.—Once round.

Mr. G. D. Coutts's grey <i>Midlander</i> (Dr. Keylock)	13	4...1
Messrs. E. White & P. A. Crosthwaite's black <i>Brutus</i> (Mr. Crosthwaite)	13	0...2
Mr. C. R. Burkill's black <i>Black Chief</i> (Owner)	13	0...3
Messrs. A. W. & C. R. Burkill's dun <i>Seaweed</i> (Mr. Coutts)	13	3...0

The conditions of the first race were here almost duplicated. *Black Chief* led to the wall in this case, but Dr. Keylock then took *Midlander* in hand, and sent him along splendidly. *Black Chief* was caught yard by yard, and finally *Midlander* passed the post a winner by a length.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Black Chief* 125, *Brutus* 121, *Seaweed* 35, *Midlander* 25.—Total 206=\$1,030. Dividend \$37.

5.—THE CLUB CHALLENGE CUP.—An entry for, and open only to winners of one or more light or heavy weight prizes during the past season. Weight 11st. 2lbs. To be won three times by the same pony, the *bona fide* property of the same owner or owners. Entrance fee \$5. A Cup value \$50 to be given to the late holder on the Challenge Cup changing hands, and one value \$100, in the event of the late holder having won the Challenge Cup for two consecutive years with the same pony. Winner's name to be engraved on the Cup each time it is won. Second pony to receive \$20. Third pony \$10. No rider to be qualified unless he has ridden through at least two Hunts during the season.—Over a Course selected by the Stewards.

Mr. A. W. Burkill's bay <i>Clyde</i> (Mr. C. R. Burkill)	11	2...1
" I. G. W. Schröder's dun <i>Uncas</i> (Owner)	11	2...2
" G. Dallas's black <i>Plunger</i> (Owner)	11	2...3
" M. Krieg's grey <i>Faith</i> (Mr. Dietrich)	11	2...0

This, the best event on the card, proved a good race. It lay from the first between two ponies—*Clyde* and *Uncas*—but towards the finish the result was an evident foregone conclusion. *Clyde* drew ahead rapidly, and won easily by many lengths. *Plunger* was a fair third.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Plunger* 87, *Clyde* 77, *Uncas* 72, *Faith* 42. Total 278=\$1,390. Dividend \$16.20.

6.—THE TALLY HO CUP.—A Sweepstakes of \$3 each, with \$10 added. First pony to receive 70 per cent, second pony 20 per cent, and third pony 10 per cent. Catch weights over 11st. Ponies that have won any official flat race 7lbs. extra. Owners up allowed 5lbs. Entrance fee \$3.—Two miles.

Mr. F. Ellis's grey <i>Briefless</i> (Mr. Willeumier)	11	0...1
" H. E. Campbell's grey <i>Merrylegs</i> (Owner)	11	5...2
" O. Middleton's bay <i>Bonaventure</i> (Mr. P. Crighton)	11	0...3
Messrs. A. W. & C. R. Burkill's dun <i>Seaweed</i> (Mr. A. W. Burkill)	10	9...0
" A. McInnes & S. Deacon's blue dun <i>Blue Ribbon</i> (Mr. McInnes)	10	12...0
Mr. H. Maitland's grey <i>Silver Fox</i> (Mr. Cumming)	11	0...0
" N. E. Moller's grey <i>Ladysmith</i> (Owner)	10	0...0

In this race the much-praised *Bonaventure* came out for the second time, and soon after the start took the lead with *Briefless* in attendance. They forged ahead from the rest of the field, but towards the finish *Briefless* drew away from *Bonaventure* and *Merrylegs* came up into second place. Thus they finished, many lengths separating second and third.

Time, 4mins. 31 3-5secs.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Briefless* 95, *Bonaventure* 58, *Silver Fox* 36, *Merrylegs* 35, *Seaweed* 20, *Ladysmith* 10, *Blue Ribbon* 5. Total 259=\$1,295. Dividend \$12.20.

7.—THE PAPER HUNT CUP.—Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$20, third pony \$10. Catch weights over 11st. Owners up allowed 5lbs. The winner of the Club Challenge Cup excluded. Entrance fee \$3.—An open Steeplechase from the Polo Ground, once round and in.

Mr. R. B. Moorhead's bay <i>Watch</i> (Mr. C. R. Burkill)	11	0...1
" S. Deacon's grey <i>Bunky</i> (Mr. McInnes)	11	0...2
" P. W. Massey's black <i>Black Deuce</i> (Mr. P. Crighton)	11	0...3

Watch was an easy winner in this race, for it led all round the course, and had a final advantage of many lengths over *Bunky*.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Black Deuce* 31, *Watch* 132, *Bunky* 14.—Total 177=\$885. Dividend \$6.

8.—THE BEEF STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$3 each. For "Heavy Weight" riders and for ponies that have been ridden through at least one Hunt by "Heavy Weights" during the past season. Catch weights over 185lbs.—Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. G. D. Coutts's brown <i>Zeelander</i> (Owner)	185...1
" G. Dallas's black <i>Plunger</i> (Owner)	185...2
" Fred. Dallas's skewbald <i>Boughton</i> (Owner)	185...3
" S. W. Pratt's dun <i>Tristan</i> (Dr. Keylock)	186...0
" S. Laurence's grey <i>Ashford</i> (Owner)	185...0
" D. Landale's grey <i>Valkyrien II</i> (Owner)	185...0

Time, 1min. 37 1-5secs.

Mr. Coutts rode a good race, and finally brought *Zeelander* home a winner by a length, half a length separating second and third.

Pari-Mutuel:—Plunger 74, Zeelander 55, Boughton 52, Tristan 27, Valkyrien II 15, Ashford 6. Total 229=\$1,145. Dividend \$18.70.

9.—**TUE HARE FORRARD STAKES.**—Value \$30. Second pony to receive \$15. Open only to starters at this meeting. Winners at this meeting excluded. Catch weights over 11st. Winners of any official flat race 7lbs. extra.—Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. C. R. Burkill's grey <i>Myosotis</i> (Mr. A. W. Burkill)	11	0...1
" C. R. Burkill's chestnut <i>Corkscrew</i> (Owner)	11	0...2
" W. Scott's chestnut <i>Tempest</i> (Mr. H. E. Campbell)	11	0...3
" P. W. Massey's black <i>Black Deuce</i> (Mr. P. Crighton)	11	0...0
" L. C. B. Edmonston's brown <i>The Pirate</i> (Mr. A. Crighton)	11	0...0
" E. S. Perrott's bay <i>Rosebud</i> (Mr. Midwood)	11	0...0
" M. Kring's grey <i>Faith</i> (Owner)	11	S...0
" Eskmann's grey <i>Queen Sabe</i> (Mr. Littmann)	11	0...0

The race was a close one from the start, and lay between *Corkscrew*, the favourite, and *Myosotis*. The latter got a lead into the straight, however, and held it to the finish, with *Corkscrew* half a length behind.

Pari-Mutuel:—*Corkscrew* 133, *Rosebud* 25, *Tempest* 20, *Queen Sabe* 14, *Myosotis* 8, *The Pirate* 5, *Black Deuce* 3, *Faith* 3. Total 211=\$1,055. Dividend \$118.60.

THE SHANGHAI LIGHT HORSE.

The members of the Shanghai Light Horse had a pleasant and instructive day's outing on Sunday. They fell in at the Horse Bazaar, under Captain Wickham and Lieutenants Keylock and Ross, the roll call showing only two absentees, one through sickness and the other through business pressure. The troop went along the Bubbling Well Road, and, turning into the village, struck the Great Western Road, along which they went until they reached the Handicap Bridge. Thence the troop went into the country to Unkaza, where Mr. and Mrs. Hogg and family greeted them right heartily. Picket lines had been thoughtfully laid down, but were not all needed till tiffin time. The Light Horse reached Unkaza at 11.30 a.m., and filled in time with some good displays of tent-perging until called in to satisfy the appetites contingent upon a good saddle-thumping in the keen morning air. At tiffin there were several guests, including Major and Mrs. Morrison, Captain and Mrs. Mackenzie, Captain and Mrs. Montgomerie (H.M.S. *Bonaventure*), Mrs. Wickham, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Ede, Lieutenant Lees, R.M.L.I. (H.M.S. *Bonaventure*), and others. After tiffin there were some songs and speeches and the usual loyal toasts were warmly honoured. After tiffin the troopers went through further displays of tent-perging; then they formed up in front of the house and Mr. and Mrs. Hogg were very cordially thanked for their hospitality. The home ride was made in good time and the "dismiss" took place a little after 6. All who took part in the outing describe it as being a most enjoyable one, and its value in teaching younger members of the corps something of the topography of the outlying country is considerable. We hope to hear of the Light Horse making many similar parades, in which pleasure and duty are so happily combined.

SHOOTING.

H.M.S. "BONAVENTURE" F. POLICE.

A return match representing the above took place on Thursday afternoon at 200, 500, and 600 yards; teams of 10 a side. The weather was all that could be desired excepting for a strong puffy left wind, which at times almost died away, and accounts for some of the old shots breaking up at the longer ranges. At the finish of the shooting at 200 yards the Navy led by 5 points with a total of 307 points, 3 points short of an average of 31 per man—a splendid record for a team shooting under the circumstances. At 500 yards they again showed their superiority over their opponents by further increasing their lead. At 600 yards the Police made up a lot of lost ground, but failed to reach the Navy men, who eventually won by the very narrow margin of 3 points.

It is worthy of note that this is the first occasion on which the Police team has ever been beaten, which makes the win for the Navy all the more sweet. Therefore great credit is due to the winners for lowering the colours of an ever-victorious team, a feat which many a visiting ship to this port has tried to do, but failed.

The highest individual score was that made by Mr. Steele, 94 points.

Appended are the scores:—

H.M.S. "BONAVENTURE."

	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	TL.
Mr. Steele...	32	31	31	94
1st Class P.O. Buzzo	32	32	27	91
Leadg. Smah. Pomeroy	31	31	28	90
Corpl. Hendry	31	27	28	86
Lance Corpl. Bocking	34	32	18	84
Mr. Creber	29	27	25	81
Sergeant Fo-ter	31	28	17	76
Private Thomas	32	25	16	73
Leadg. Smah. Annear	29	21	21	71
Sergeant Cooper	26	19	21	66
	307	273	232	812

POLICE TEAM.

Inspector	Collins ...	33	27	32	92
"	Bourke ...	30	30	31	91
"	Wilson ...	30	32	28	90
Sergeant	Reilly ..	22	27	26	85
"	McDonald	32	30	21	83
"	McDowall	33	26	22	81
"	Mackintosh	27	25	24	76
Inspector	Hadley ..	30	14	28	72
Sergeant	Robinson	30	27	13	70
"	Oliver ...	25	25	19	69
	—	—	—	—	—
		302	263	244	809

S. V. C. ARTILLERY.

MONTHLY CUP.

The second competition for the new monthly cup was held on Sunday last, from 6.30 a.m. to noon.

Ranges 300 and 400 yards.

Position prone at both ranges.

A few competitors fired in the morning before the wind had settled down, but the majority of the members waited until about 10 o'clock and then had a strong and puffy nor-wester to baffle with.

Of the early morning scores those of Gunner Lynch and Sergeant Murphy are the best, they made 63 and 61 respectively. But the former being handicapped 6 points, for his win in the previous month was easily beaten, and Sergeant Murphy was considered the most probable winner. Later on in the forenoon Driver Batty compiled a very good 62, making a "possible" at the longer range, he attracted the attention of everyone interested and was cheered for winning (as all thought) the cup, but his score was very soon beaten by Corporal Wilson who put on 64, including 30 at 400 yards, a most creditable shoot with such a difficult wind. Following these high scores were two well-made 60's so that scoring on the whole was very good.

There were in all 23 competitors, and the competition closed was declared one of the most enjoyable for some months past. Appended are the scores of 40 and upwards.

Corporal Wilson wins the cup for the first time.

	300 yds.	400 yds.	TL.
Corp. Wilson	5454454-30	5554555-34	64
Gun. Lynch	4545455-32	4543455-31	*63
" Batty	3344444-27	5555555-35	62
Serg. Murphy	4454444-29	2535554-32	61
Bomb. Watson	3434543-26	5554555-34	60
Lieut. Marshall	2443355-27	2535555-33	60
Gun. Brown	4334444-25	4545455-33	58
" Arthur	3554344-29	22535455-29	58
" May	2432454-24	3454455-32	56
B.S.M. Mellows	3434344-25	4344454-29	54
Corp. Lowder	3335544-28	0224544-25	53
Driv. MacIntosh	3324324-21	45535255-29	50
" Watson	2023323-17	4554555-31	48
Gun. Pritchard	2542322-20	2545555-28	48
" Cook	2323030-14	05553525-30	44
" Johns	3223224-17	5454343-25	42
" Tollefsen	2323223-17	02235355-25	42
" Vilondaki	3333324-18	4442434-23	41

* Handicapped 6 points.

FOOTBALL.

RANGERS V. "PEACOCK."

A match under Association rules was played on Thursday afternoon between teams representing the Rangers and the trim little gunboat. The navy men had the disadvantage in weight and put up a good fight, especially in the first half, neither side scoring. When the tars had the sun in their faces in Act II. "they went to pieces," as one of their players put it, and the Rangers came out victorious with four goals to nil.

Correspondence.

THE TAXATION OF FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Anent the proposed tax on Fire Insurance business, I venture to put before your readers some points not previously touched upon in the recent letters on this subject published in your columns.

1.—The Special Committee of Enquiry into the Fire Brigade service appointed at the request of the Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai, which met last year, consisted of two members of the Municipal Council and two members of the Fire Insurance Association Committee, under the presidency of the Chairman of the Municipal Fire Commission.

The recommendation that the Council take steps for the acquirement of power to license Fire Insurance Offices was passed by a majority, say three to two.

I would here quote extract from the letter of the Secretary of the Fire Insurance Association addressed to the Municipal Council on the 8th of June last:—

"The prevalence of fires in the early part of this year brought forcibly to the notice of the Insurance Companies that their rates, which were based on previous experience of an adequate fire service, were likely to prove inadequate under the altered condition of lofty buildings, with which the material of the fire brigade could not be expected to cope successfully if anything like a serious outbreak of fire occurred. The Insurance Companies were therefore confronted by a problem, the solution of which lay in accepting one of two alternatives—either the public must be asked to pay more for protection of insurance, or the governing body must be prepared to afford adequate protection in the manner recognised by all civilised communities as

being their duty, namely, by a thoroughly well-equipped Fire Brigade. The benefit to the public of reasonably low insurance rates will not, my Committee submit, be denied, and in bringing the subject of the Fire Brigade Equipment to the notice of the Council and in saying their action is in the public interest, my Committee feel that they are justified and are not asking for the expenditure of public money to promote private enterprise."

The idea which has apparently prompted the imposition of this tax by the Council appears to be that a large amount of money goes out of Shanghai every year in Fire Insurance premia to Corporations which are supposed to benefit by the Municipal Police and Fire Brigade service, but which contribute nothing to their maintenance.

It must not, however, be forgotten, in listening to this plausible argument, that this premium prevents a very much larger amount of money being lost to the community by fire, and is actually the means of bringing money into the place to indemnify the community against such loss.

Apart from the fact that the protection afforded by Insurance fosters trade generally, the commissions on the large amount of money which goes out of Shanghai help to support a considerable portion of the foreign community, enabling them to contribute their share towards the expenses of the Municipality; so that it is not correct to say that the Insurance business is the only one which contributes nothing toward Municipal expenses.

Insurance Companies are not philanthropic institutions; their business has to be conducted on the same cautious lines which are necessary to the profitable working of any trade.

Rates are assessed by surrounding conditions and it is for the community to protect, by their votes at the meeting of Ratepayers, the Insurance Companies from an arbitrary tax.

Modern legislation is opposed to discriminating taxation.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM D. LITTLE.

8th March.

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR—The end of taxing Fire Insurance will be that direct Agencies in Shanghai will cease and large insurers will insure at home under floating policies and the livelihood of a respectable number of members of the community will be withdrawn. "Where is the goose that laid the golden egg?"

I am, etc.,

AN INSURANCE AGENT.

12th March.

THE WAR.

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—With reference to the war in South Africa, I think it may with reason be conceded by all Britishers that General Sir Redvers Buller has proved himself a good and efficient General.

He has explained the reason for the loss of the guns at the Tugela River, viz., an impetuous disregard of orders by the Colonel commanding the artillery. That was evidently an error of judgment on the Colonel's part. "But it was a plucky error," therefore ought not to be too severely criticised. Reading between the lines of the Press I am quite satisfied that the best disposition of our troops has been made, and that they have done, and are doing, all that can be expected of brave men.

During last November, I stated it might be expected that the war would be

finished by the end of February. But, when making that statement, I was unaware of the employment of so many slow steamers for conveying the troops to the Cape. As such was the case the war may last another two months.

I am, etc.,

THOMAS B. GOLDING.

8th March.

THE COUNCIL AND THE TELEPHONES.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space to offer my supporters both here and at home, some justification of myself and my work in the matter of the Tender for the Telephone Franchise and the Agreement made between the Municipal Council and the Mutual Telephone Company.

My only authority for statements concerning that Company is the published correspondence issued from the Council's meeting of the 3rd of February last.

I would also avail myself of this opportunity to express to the ex-Directors and Legal Advisers of the late China Telephone Company, my sincere thanks for and keen appreciation of, the staunch and honest support they accorded me, and also to state that from the date of our first meeting until now, nothing but extreme good will and unanimity have marked our relationship. But in spite of this and the undoubted high standing of these gentlemen we did not get the Franchise.

I will not attempt to explain the inexplicable, but leave the public to draw its own inferences from the following statement of facts concerning the Tenders of the China Telephone Company (ours), and the Mutual Telephone Company (theirs).

1.—Our tender was sent in on 28th November 1899.

Theirs not until the 13th January 1900.

2.—Our tender was in strict accordance with the Council's advertisement calling for tenders for the Franchise. If we might have been allowed to deviate therefrom, we should have been told so.

Theirs was widely at variance with the terms of the advertisement.

3.—We offered the Exchange to the Council at the end of 15 years on terms to be settled by arbitration, each side to have two arbitrators, these to choose an umpire. They have ignored this vital point altogether.

4.—We offered public pay stations at 15 and 20 dollar cents per call, within and without the Settlement.

They offer no facilities of the kind.

5.—We offered to employ resident young girls.

They estimate only for the cheapest kind of native.

6.—We guaranteed to keep our Exchange open day and night throughout the year. Their hours of attendance are not stated.

7.—We offered to erect, connect, and maintain Council's new system of 30 Fire Alarms and install a first-class system (if Council would pay net cost of apparatus) similar to that now, and for the last 30 years, in daily use, gratis.

They charge the Council as follows:—

30 Fire alarms at usual subscription of	Tls.
Tls. 40 each.....	1,200
Installation fees.....	300
	1,500
With a possible increase to 60 Tls.	600
Annual subscription	2,100
Less first year's installation fees	300
Net annual subscription	Tls. 1,800

8.—We offered the Council Telephones at the usual rate until we had 500 subscribers; then 25 per cent reduction and a further 25 per cent when we had 600 subscribers or, say:—

Tls.	
40 Telephones at 75 Tls.	3,000
With a possible reduction to Tls.	1,500
They offered 40 Telephones at 4 Tls. each	160
40 Installations at Tls. 10	400
	2,000
With a possible increase to Tls. 60	2,400
Cost and subscription	2,800
Less installation fees	400
Annual subscription cost Tls.	2,400

9.—We agreed that we would have no small vexatious fees, everything being included in Tls. 24 per annum for every extra telephone required by a subscriber.

They charge fees for every possible little item.

10.—We agreed to put up iron poles as fast as our finances allowed.

They ignored iron poles in toto.

11.—We agreed to carry every wire going beyond the limits of the English Settlement underground. This, with extra wires for future subscribers, would require some 320 mile of copper wire laid underground.

They lay no underground cable.

12.—We especially avoided overhead cables, although costing less than one-half of underground cables, as being useful only for emergency or temporary work and worse than useless for permanent work.

They are allowed to avoid underground cables and substitute overhead cables, which will certainly be a greater disfigurement than overhead lines, and in this climate be very short-lived, 3 years at the most.

13.—We guaranteed that our work should come up to the two most rigid standards known, viz., The U. S. "Conference Standard" Telephone Specification and that of the British Post Office.

They are allowed to escape without any guarantee or specification.

14.—We agreed that all our lines should be of Hard Drawn Copper or Bronze wire. They do not.

15.—In accordance with their advertised demand, we agreed to give the Council full security of Tls. 10,000.

They get off with a lien for 5 years on their plant, which may not be worth that to the Council.

16.—We would have been willing to guarantee the opening of the Exchange in 6 months from date of agreement, and in the meantime negotiations were going on at home for hire or purchase of all we could get of the China and Japan Telephone Company's plant, to carry on with.

They require 12 months from date of agreement and the "temporary double line overhead service" and "the carefully constructed net work of pipes" are relegated to oblivion.

17.—Finally with regard to rates:—

We were prepared to guarantee to lower our rates had the Council desired us to, so soon as our shareholders had been paid a dividend of 10 per cent.

The Mutual Telephone Company guarantee nothing in the matter of rates below Tls. 70 for 300 subscribers, Tls. 65 for 400, and so on. They, however, announce that "it is proposed" and "it is intended" to charge Tls. 50 at present, but it is certain that this charge will not pay a sufficient return on their outlay, and it would require more than ordinary belief in their philanthropy to imagine they will not raise their rates sooner or later to the full extent allowed by their agreement.

But take Tls. 50, which subscribers who do not take Tls. 150 or 200 of shares will have to pay, to this must be added

Tls. 10 for installation, making Tls. 60, with a possible and authorised rise to Tls. 80. It will be seen that the difference in favour of the Mutual Company is more fancied than real. The deduction for shares taken has nothing whatever to do with the rates, for it is simply a return for capital invested in the concern which would in all probability bring a better return elsewhere.

Tls.
Our subscription had a guaranteed maximum (with a possibility of reduction) of 75
Their highest is Tls. 70 and an installation fee of Tls. 10 80
Their lowest is Tls. 40 for private lines and an installation fee of Tls. 10 50
Our lowest for private lines was 30 clean.

We agreed unreservedly and unconditionally to every demand of the Council; only demurring to two points, afterwards understood to be satisfactorily arranged between the writer and the Council's Electrical Engineer, in an interview which he requested with Mr. Bishop.

These were:—We respectfully suggested that Par. 22 in the pamphlet was already covered by Par. 17 to which we had already agreed; and Par. 24, in which we asked the Council to accept a clause providing that the cost of any removal (of our lines, poles, etc.) ordered by the Council, if already approved by the Council, should be borne by the Council.

When the Mutual's prospectus appeared, our Directors asked me to report thereon. I did so, exposing its utter impossibility, arising from ignorance of the ruling factors of their own scheme.

It was intended that this report should be sent to the local Press for publication over my own signature, but, at a meeting of our Directors, held on the 4th January, it was decided that, as the Council was then most probably discussing the matter, it would be better to send it in to the Council direct. This was done, the report recommending that the Council insist on every bidder for the Franchise giving a detailed specification of the work and material they proposed to use, and the Council were specially asked not to consider this report as "being in any way private or confidential."

No answer to or acknowledgment of this was received. Finally, our tender, which fulfilled every pledge made to the Public in our prospectus, concluded by stating that "should the Council desire any further information on or to discuss or modify any point in this tender our engineer would gladly place himself at the disposal of the Council." But from the time of the receipt of our tender on the 29th of November to the present date, our Company has never received one word of communication from the Council on the matter, good, bad, or indifferent, beyond a bare acknowledgment of its receipt.

I am, etc.,

J. D. BISHOP.

9th March.

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Will you kindly grant me space to allude to Mr. J. D. Bishop's letter regarding the new Telephone contract, which appeared in your issue of the 10th instant?

I do not propose to discuss the relative merits of either of the tenders submitted to the Council and have no interest whatever in either company, but it appears to me that Mr. Bishop brings a strong charge of breach of faith against the Council. Either that gentleman is right in his statements or he is wrong, and it is to be hoped that the Chairman of the Council will at the forthcoming Ratepayers' Meeting avail of the opportunity to refute the charge, which if allowed to stand unexplained is certainly calculated to shake the

public faith in the *bona fides* of invitations to tender for public work issued by the Council. I consider that in a commercial community like this, tenders for the supply of all materials required for public work should be much more freely invited locally, but tenderers should receive the assurance that all will be placed on an equal footing, and that if deviations from the original conditions of tender are afterwards considered allowable, all who tendered should have an equal opportunity of amending their original tenders accordingly. It cannot be denied that the contract entered into with the Mutual Telephone Company differs very materially from the original terms, and unless some very cogent reasons for such deviation being made in favour of that company exclusively are forthcoming, the ugly impression already created in the minds of many members of this community, that public interests have in this instance been sacrificed to other demands, will prevail.

I am, etc.,

FIAT JUSTITIA.

12th March.

THE VENGEANCE OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—We have been hoping that someone would take up the matter of the Dowager's recent action against the Reformers, but as no one seems to regard the matter as being as serious as it really is, we write to the *News* in the sure hope that our appeal will be published, and that some effort will be made to save the lives of the three hundred young men who once constituted the Patriotic Club.

That the Dowager is bent on compassing their death seems certain. It is equally certain that there are many Chinese who are willing to carry out her plans to extirpate the whole band of noble fellows who are classed as 維新黨. In her fury she has even ordered the dismantling and destruction of the ancestral graves of one noted Reformer, and if these indignities are offered to the dead, what will not be done to the living? For every one knows with what superstitious reverence the Chinese regard the dead.

It is not our intention to define the motives which prompted the issue of the recent decrees. The Dowager is ignorant of that which constitutes the safety and welfare of her own country, and is plunging China in ruin. There is a grim humour in the fact that she is spending thousands of taels in preparing her own grave!

We ought not to stand idly by and behold the execution of our innocent friends without making some appeal to the warm-hearted, generous sympathy of Europeans. Some of the young men who have fallen under the ban of the Dowager's wrath we have received into our homes; have taught them and encouraged them in their search after truth, and we can testify that they have always been loyal to their country. To missionaries are due in large measure the reforms in education that have been so heartily recommended by such high officials as the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung. From the nature of the case the Blessed Gospel, which brings salvation to the soul, brings also other concomitant blessings, such as the healing of the body and the enlightening of the mind. Missionaries have healed and preached. They have also taught, not anarchy and rebellion, but principles of truth that will lift up and ennoble. Their work has been exceedingly difficult but they have partially succeeded. As another attendant benefit of Christianity the spark of patriotism, which the noxious fumes of China have almost smothered, has been kindled into a little flame, and the

missionaries by their words and publications have led many to become true-hearted subjects of China. Among these are some of the most intelligent young men in the Empire, who are now to be murdered before the eyes of their teachers for no crime whatever. Cannot foreigners exert some influence to deter the Empress Dowager from her ruinous purpose?

The influence of missionaries has opened many cities in this Empire to commerce as well as to the preaching of the Gospel. If their pupils are killed as the result of their following them, the Chinese will hereafter avoid foreigners as they would some dread contagion. The good influence that has been exerted for so many years will not only be lost but will be converted into an unspeakable power for evil against foreigners.

In the minds of the Chinese, religion and education are inseparably connected and the blow against Western education is a back-handed stroke against Christianity. At this stage of China's history it is difficult for the business man or the Consul to be entirely dissociated in the minds of the Chinese. All are foreigners alike. The murder of the Reformers would create renewed suspicion, dread, dislike, and isolation towards us all. Business, Education, and Preaching would receive a check and dire effects would be sure to follow.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the space you have given my letter,

I am, etc.,

PARS FUI.

8th March.

THE PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL SCHEME FOR SHANGHAI.

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—It is with considerable reluctance that I raise any objection to the Educational Scheme for the Chinese in these Settlements that is to be brought forward at the Ratepayers' Meeting on Tuesday. For, first, I am heartily in favour of one principle that underlies it, *viz.*, that the Municipal Council ought to use a portion of the taxes paid by the Chinese to provide education for the children of the Chinese who live in the Settlements. And, second, I dislike to appear in opposition to Messrs. Richard, Pott, and Ferguson. I, with them and many others like-minded, belong to a number of Societies and Associations having for their object the uplifting and helping of the Chinese along all lines, physical, mental, and spiritual. It looks, therefore, like a division of counsels, and a consequent loss of power, for those who are so closely related in the same work to disagree as to the methods of doing the work. But I am convinced that the scheme as proposed is a mistake and I cannot vote for it.

1.—The scheme is too narrow in its scope. It is for a *class only* and not for the general public. Those Chinese who would be benefited by it are abundantly able to pay for the education that is to be provided for them, while the great mass of the common people, who need education and cannot afford to pay for it, would derive no benefit from the scheme. Class legislation is always unjust and oppressive, and it is especially unjust here to take the taxes of the many to confer special benefits on a few, who are quite able to pay for what is proposed to give them at a merely nominal charge. Mr. Pott's argument, that those who would apply for admission from the higher or wealthier classes could be detected and rejected, will not hold good in practice. It will be impossible, as all who have had experience know full well, to decide in most cases whether or not the applicant is from the wealthy classes and should be rejected.

2.—What is wanted, most of all, it seems to me, is a general plan for a Public School System for the Chinese of these Settlements, free to all. The instruction should be given wholly in the Chinese language and should consist of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, elementary science, etc., the equivalent, in a word, of what is known in England and America as a common school education.

a. The Chinese living in the Settlements have, by reason of the large proportion of the taxes they pay, a right to such a system of free schools for their children.

b. Such a system in Shanghai would be a grand object lesson to the country at large, where a public school system is one of the greatest needs of the time.

c. It would serve to extend knowledge and enlightenment among the masses and, while benefiting them in many ways, would, at the same time tend to lessen crime and promote good government, as is well known to be the case under similar conditions in Western lands.

3.—If the ratepayers are not prepared to enter upon so extensive an undertaking as a Common School system for the Chinese in these Settlements, then the next best thing, I submit, is a grant-in-aid system, such as has worked so well in India, Hongkong, and elsewhere. This would do far more to stimulate education and to spread its benefits among the people generally than a single school operated under the management of the Municipal Council.

4.—As the Municipal Council refuses to recommend to the Ratepayers to vote an appropriation to aid the Anglo-Chinese School under the charge of Messrs. Moule, on account of its being a denominational institution, they ought, in all fairness and consistency, to refuse to recommend an appropriation to the Roman Catholic schools in Hongkew and the French Settlement. These schools are even more pronouncedly denominational than Messrs. Moule's school, and it seems altogether unfair to take taxes paid by Protestant property-holders to support a Roman Catholic institution while refusing to use part of the same taxes to support a Protestant institution. This item in the Budget ought to be voted out.

5.—Finally, if the Municipal Council, or the Ratepayers through them, wish to establish a school for teaching English to the Chinese in these Settlements, there is no necessity for appropriating any money whatever for it out of the Municipal taxes. The £15, 30,000 that are to be raised by some Chinese for the proposed scheme will be sufficient to secure the necessary ground and buildings, and if six dollars a month tuition is charged, instead of the three dollars a month proposed by Mr. Pott, ample funds will be provided by the income from tuition fees to pay the salaries of not only the two foreign and fifteen or twenty native teachers that will be needed for the present scheme, but several more teachers, both native and foreign, could be provided for by such an income as would be secured from four hundred pupils at six dollars a month.

I submit, therefore, that the scheme as proposed is wholly unnecessary and wrong in principle and ought to be voted down. No further action should be taken now, but let us look forward to the time when the Municipal Council and/or the ratepayers will be ready to discuss the feasibility of a Common School system for Chinese living in the Settlements.

I am, etc.,

A. P. PARKER.

10th March.

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to the letter in your issue of this morning on the "Proposed Educational Scheme for

Shanghai." With regard to that part of the letter, in which reference is made to appropriations to the Roman Catholic Schools, I must say I have seen nothing more preposterous. The dictatorial sentence:—"this item in the Budget ought to be voted out" is simply characteristic.

The fact should not be overlooked that the grant to those Schools is made for the reason that children of ratepayers are educated in them, not because they are Roman Catholic Schools, this latter consideration being wisely put aside. If this grant is to be disputed no more should the appropriation for the Public School be allowed to go unchallenged; for it cannot be argued that if Roman Catholic Ratepayers wish to have the education of their children aided to any extent by Municipal Funds, they should send them to the Public School. It would be dictating to the conscience of those Ratepayers. With the Roman Catholics, it is a question of conscience to see that their children are brought up in Schools where their Faith is taught; they cannot be indifferent in this matter.

I hope that, in fairness, you will do me the favour of inserting this letter and I thank you in anticipation.

I am, etc.,

DELTA.

12th March.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR FUND.

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—For the information of contributors will you kindly print the enclosed copy of a letter, received by the manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in London from the Mansion House, acknowledging the telegraphic remittances of £8,000?

A detailed list of subscriptions received up to the 26th February is being printed for circulation. The account has been kindly audited by Mr. J. D. Thorburn to whom the thanks of the Committee are due. On that date the subscriptions amounted to £15, 63,590.47, and after remitting £8,000 at 2s. 9d., the equivalent of £15, 58,181.82, there remained a balance of £15, 5,408.65. This balance has now been increased to £15, 8,918.33, and a further remittance of £1,000 is going forward.

I am, etc.,

F. E. TAYLOR,

Hon. Secretary.

12th March.

(Copy.)

The Mansion House,

London, 31st January, 1900.

DEAR SIR,—The Lord Mayor desires me to send you a formal receipt for the magnificent contribution from Shanghai. If you will kindly, later on, tell him from whom this comes, he will write a letter of acknowledgment to the subscribers.

Yours truly,

(Signed) W. J. SOULSBY.

The Manager,

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI

BANKING CORPORATION.

NEWS BY THE TAPE has often been utilised by a bold speculator for the speedy accumulation of a vast fortune. Knowledge is power in every avenue of life when properly wielded. The proprietor of Holloway's Pills and Ointment is fully alive to this fact, and knowing their value as a cure for all diseases, he has made their merits known in all parts of the world. Commercial men who, to keep pace with the times, have always to work at high pressure should never be without a supply of these valuable medicines. They purify the blood, strengthen the stomach, quicken the circulation and invigorate the system. For nervous or neuralgic headache, no remedy has been found to match them in excellence.

THE PROPOSED ROAD TO THE HILLS.

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I shall be obliged by your kindly inserting in your next issue the following note regarding the proposed road to the hills:—

I learn by public rumour that certain notabilities of the Foreign Settlement intend at the next meeting of the ratepayers to oppose the scheme of the road to the hills, on the ground that the Jesuit Fathers have bought all the land on the hills, and thus rendered speculation impossible.

Permit me to correct this statement which is a manifest exaggeration. The truth is that the western hill, on which for a length of time we have our Church and residence, and recently an astronomical observatory in course of construction, is in large part our property; on the eastern hill, we have merely a few acres; on all the others absolutely nothing.

I beg therefore the opponents of the scheme, through the medium of your newspaper, to find stronger and better-founded objections.

I am, etc.,

E. ROUXEL.

Proc. of Mission.

St. Joseph's Church,
12th March.

THE McMURRAY APPEAL

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The Post has just brought me an unsigned, printed circular, in which the ratepayers are invited to vote, that a Mr. McMurray's legal expenses in his case against the Shanghai Municipal Council be paid out of the Public Funds. Without doubt the gentleman in question is very much out of pocket through the obstinate perseverance in his fight against the public good, but it seems to me rather too much of an encouragement now to pay his expenses. I venture to suggest, that the taxes in the Model Settlement are quite high enough, certainly too high for philanthropic experiments of this kind. There are numerous Europeans who are obliged to spend one quarter of their income on house rent, because our fathers were too philanthropic to reserve a part of the so-called Foreign Settlement for the Europeans. Forced to pay an outrageous rent, we are taxed on that rent; forced to live at long distances from the business-part of the town, we are taxed on the vehicles we have to keep. A community, whose only monumental buildings consist of palatial police-stations, stowed away in back streets, has better use for its money than paying law expenses in a case which it gained. If there is money to spare, then spend it on street-improvements,—look at our Bund and the Nanking Road, whenever the watercarts have been at it; those streets are a disgrace to civilisation; they are paddypields, not streets. Why are they not paved with bricks, as in some Dutch towns, or with wood or with anything that will allow a pedestrian to do without sea boots. If you have money to spare, then increase the police force, that they may be able to make richa-coolies keep the left side of the road, instead of making short cuts at every corner; that they may be able to keep them from rushing at people when they leave their front door, etc., etc. At present all the energies of the police are concentrated on the protection of the richa-coolie; the other day a carriage damaged a richa to the extent of fifty cents and was taken to the police station, while the little girl who was going to school in it had to walk there on foot, and would have been assaulted by

the coolie, if a passing stranger had not been kind enough to protect her. Model settlement indeed, where the sidewalks are taken up by dirty coolies and the streets are mud-holes; where one has to go three miles before one can have a walk and then has to run the gauntlet of several hundred mafioses flogging miserable skeletons, by courtesy called horses; where landlords are allowed to build right up to the roadway without leaving a sidewalk, as has just been done in Minghong road. Why did not Mr. McMurray give up his ground, when he knew it was *pro bono publico*, and then apply to the generosity of the taxpayers. If you have money to spare, then return me the exorbitant rent I have had to pay; you will easily get lots of applicants besides.

THIS RATEPAYER.

12th March.

AN UNDESIRABLE REVERSION.

To the Editor of

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR.—The manner in which the roads of the Settlement have been sprinkled during the past few months has been an inexpressible relief from what they used to be and shows what can be done by proper attention. We had hoped the reform would be permanent, but have to express our regret to see how, of late, the cart drivers have gone back to their old ways of open-wide-the-throttle-and-sit-on-the-safety-valve system, so that the roads instead of being properly wetted, are again, at times, in a most unsatisfactory condition, the mud flying in every direction as one drives along, or, if one happens to be a cyclist, like your unfortunate correspondent, rendered dangerous or even impassable. Trusting relief may be forthcoming, as on a previous occasion.

I am, etc.,

QUANTUM SUFFICIENT.

13th March.

Miscellaneous.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

(Specially translated for the "North-China Daily News.")

6th March.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN PRINCE.

We regret to hear of the death of Chin Chi, Prince of Ke'hebin, 2nd Order, which occurred yesterday. The deceased inherited his title in the fifties and in the reign of the late Emperor Tung Chih was decorated with the three-eyed peacock's feather, with the brevet rank of a Prince of the 1st Order. He held during three reigns in succession the posts of Grand Chamberlain, Inspector-General of armies, Commander-in-chief of the Imperial Guards, Captain-General of a Banner Corps, and Commandant of the Rifle Brigade of the Peking Field Force, in the duties of all of which he always showed great diligence and efficiency. Lately he was repeatedly granted sick leave but we regret that he did not succeed in regaining his health, whereby we have lost a faithful and valuable member of our Court. We hereby commend Prince P'u Lun, 4th Order, with an escort of ten Imperial guardsmen to carry a *To-lo* prayer coverlet to be used as a shroud for deceased, and said Prince shall also pour a libation to the dead on our behalf before the remains of the deceased Prince. As a further mark of recognition of his services during three reigns (Hsien Feng, Tung Chih, and Kuang Hsi) we hereby command

that T'is, 3,000 be paid by the keeper of the Privy Purse to the family of the deceased for funeral expenses, that all black marks against his name be erased from the official records and that his eldest son Sung Chieh succeed to his deceased parent's title and estates. The second son of the deceased, Sung Hsi, and grandson, An Sen, are also hereby granted the brevet premier button, in order that all the nearest members of the deceased Prince's family may partake of the Imperial bounty.

Note:—The holder of the title of Prince of Ke'hebin stands tenth in precedence at Court amongst the chief Princely Houses now existing in Peking, viz:—Prince of Li, Prince of Ju, Prince of Cheng, Prince of Yi, Prince of Shih, Prince of Chuang, Prince Kung, Prince Chun, Prince of Yi, Prince of Ke'hebin, Prince of Shunch'eng, Prince of Ting, Prince Ching, and Prince Tuan.—Translator.

8th March.

(1) Decree concerning memorial from Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the Hukwang province, reporting the death of Wu Feng-kuei, Provincial Commander-in-chief of Hupeh. All black marks against official record of deceased are ordered to be erased, a special money grant to be paid to his family for funeral expenses, and the Viceroy is ordered to find out whether deceased has left any son or sons in order that they may be given official rank in recognition of the military services of the deceased during the Taiping and Nienfei rebellions in the sixties.

(2) Chang Chih-tung is appointed Acting Provincial Commander-in-chief of Hupeh in addition to his Viceregal duties, vice Wu Feng-kuei, deceased, until the new incumbent, General Chang Ch'un-fa, arrives at Wuchang.

(3) Teng Wan-lin is appointed Provincial Commander-in-chief of the land forces of Kuangtung province, vice Chang Ch'un-fa, transferred to Hupeh. Chang Ming-shin is appointed Brigadier-General of the Chieh-shih Circuit of Kuangtung province vice Teng Wan-lin promoted as above.

(4) Shih Tu, Prince of Li, 1st Order, is appointed Superintendent of the Wuying Throne-hall.

Jung Lu is appointed a Grand Chamberlain.

Note:—This will give Jung Lu similar privileges to Prince Ching, who as Grand Chamberlain could call at the Palace to see the Empress Dowager at any hour of the day or night, without the inconvenience of having witnesses, other than eunuchs, to hear what he says to the Empress Dowager. For intrigues a Grand Chamberlain's post is superior to that of a Grand Councillor.—Translator.

9th March.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S VENGEANCE.

(1) We have received a memorial from the Chancellor of the Hanlin Academy and his colleagues denouncing the conduct of certain members of this learned body of literates. The Hanlin Compiler Kuei Tu (Manchu) is charged with having pocketed Government money granted to him to encourage international commerce; a task which, up to the present moment, the accused Compiler can show nothing for, thereby wasting the public funds. The said Kuei Tu is hereby handed to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of an adequate penalty. The Hanlin Compiler, Chou Hsi-en, now on leave of absence at his home (in Soochow) is charged with having been boastful and arrogant in conduct and speech, regardless of the dignity due to his high rank. He is hereby commanded to send in his resignation and he is further ordered to be placed under the strict surveillance of the local authorities of his native town. The Hanlin Compiler, Ch'en Ting, a native of Hunan, is accused of being crafty, low and false; a man addicted to unorthodox and pernicious

doctrines. A book of which he was the author, commenting on the government, is charged with containing many reasonable ideas. He is hereby ordered to be cashiered and the Hanlin Academy is further commanded to hand the accused to the Board of Punishments to be sent under guard to his native province, the Governor of which shall imprison him for life in the provincial goal. The same sentence is hereby awarded the Hanlin graduate, Wu Shih-tsao (a native of Yunnan) whose nature is charged with being the same as the cashiered Hanlin Compiler Ch'en Ting aforesaid. With reference to the Hanlin Compiler Shen P'eng who after making his extraordinary and crazy charges (against Jung Lu and Kang Yi) left Peking for his native city of Changshu (near Soochow) and who has been reported by acting Viceroy Lu Ch'un-lin to have already been arrested, we hereby command that the said Shen P'eng be also imprisoned for life in the provincial goal in Soochow. The three Hanlins last mentioned especially deserve their punishment owing to their disreputable and ungentlemanly conduct. Finally, we command the Chancellor of the said Academy to carefully watch the conduct and characters of the other members of the Academy and denounce such as deserve to be punished.

Note:—The above five Hanlins, one Manchu and four Chinese, are all noted members of the Reform Party, the unequal punishments awarded the last three being due to the fact that the latter gloried in being friends of Kang Yu-wei. Although the Manchu Hanlin was only handed over to the Board the probabilities are that he also will be cashiered or at least degraded several steps, which will amount to the same thing.—Translator.

12th March.

IN HONOUR OF THE EMPEROR'S 30th BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY.

In honour of the 30th anniversary of our birthday this year we desire to reward such of our civil and military officials who have attained the age of seventy years and over as a mark of our esteem for their faithful services. We hereby bestow upon the Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of the two Kuang provinces, a robe embroidered with dragons in squares; upon the Grand Secretary Hsu T'ung we bestow the decoration of the three-eyed peacock's feather (hitherto only reserved for Princes and Dukes—Translator); upon the assistant Grand Secretary Wang Wen-shao, the title of Junior Guardian of the Heir apparent; upon Duke Ch'ung Yi (father-in-law of the late Emperor Tung Chih, and now Grand Preceptor of the Heir Apparent—Translator) the decoration of the one-eyed peacock's feather; upon Hsi Yung-yi and Hsi Shu-min, Presidents of the Boards of War and Works, respectively, and the military assistant Governor Kuang Chung (Manchu) an embroidered Court robe and the letter *Fu*, written by our Imperial hand to each of them. Upon both the retired Grand Secretaries, Ngeli-la-ho-pu (Manchu) and Sun Chia-nai, we bestow the character *Fu* and two pieces of Court satin. Upon Liu K'un-yi, Viceroy of the Liang-kiang provinces, we bestow the title of Junior Guardian of the Heir apparent; upon Tan Chung-in, retired Viceroy of the Two Kuang, the decoration of the two-eyed peacock's feather; and upon Hsu Ying-kuei, Viceroy of the Min-Ché province, the decoration of the one-eyed peacock's feather. [The remainder of this decree grants pieces of court silk or satin, and also tablets written by the Emperor, to several Generals, amongst whom is Sung Ching, the commander of the Left Corps of the Grand Army of the North, this officer having already reached his eighty-third year.—Translator.]

CALENDARS, ETC., RECEIVED.

From Messrs. Mustard & Co., two splendidly coloured hanging calendars issued by Messrs. Libby, McNeill, & Libby, packers and preservers of meats, Chicago, U. S. A.

FIRE AT LAU-KUNG-MAO COTTON MILL.

A fire broke out in the Lau-Kung-Mao Cotton Mill, Yangtzepoo Road, at about 6 a.m. on Wednesday, doing damage which, it is estimated, will amount to something approaching 10,000 taes. The fire originated in the mixing room and 600 piculs of cotton, which had been placed there on the previous night, were destroyed by burning. The building escaped injury, but the leather belting in the blowing room below was damaged by water. The business of the mill has not been impeded to any material extent by the outbreak. As to the origin of the fire, the idea of combustion is not entertained at all but it is considered highly probable that the cause was a match carelessly dropped by one of the Chinese or by one of the hands wrongfully smoking in the mixing room. Good service was done by the Grinnell sprinklers, with which the works are fitted for fire extinction, and the hands also worked willingly in preventing the spread of the flames, the Fire Brigade not being called out. The insurance on the building is divided amongst all the principal local offices.

SERIOUS FIRE IN THE PEKING ROAD.

On Sunday evening a fire of a particularly destructive nature occurred in the godown of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Peking Road, which was entirely gutted. The alarm was given at about 6.40 p.m., and a few minutes after saw firemen hurrying from all quarters. Some bluejackets of the *Bonaventure*, who were taking an airing in the Gardens, rushed up to where the blaze was seen and helped to rescue some ponies, the alleged caretakers being only too anxious to save their own goods and chattels. When the Fire Brigade came along, all of them with commendable promptitude, it was seen that the job was a serious one. The building concerned was a one-storey affair, about 80 yards long, stored principally with silk, cocoons, piece goods, soap, and wines and liquors.

It was a dirty and unsatisfactory fire from a fireman's point of view, but the local fire fighters worked splendidly. Despite heat and smoke they fought a hopeless battle and in their efforts they were ably helped by the bluejackets and officers of H.M. ships *Bonaventure* and *Peacock*. A tribute of praise is due to the captain of the Russian warship *Koréetz*, who sent, with two officers, a party of 26 men, together with hose, pumps, and other fire extinguishing appliances. The fire itself was of such a nature that the firemen could do little with it. The flames caught the scaffolding of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson's new premises, but the French Company attended to this and also a catch on the roof of Messrs. Sassoon's servants' quarters. The fire in the godown blazed for over an hour, and there were dull explosions, and one particularly lurid flame that shot up and as quickly vanished, which indicated the loss of a stock of whisky.

The two fire floats were on hand during the fire, but were not called into play.

After over an hour's hard and fatiguing work the fire was subdued, though it smouldered long after, and the western wall of the building showed a decided inclination to fall out. Altogether it was a matter of blinding smoke and steam, with a considerable element of risk, and our fire fighters deserve all credit for their plucky and self-sacrificing efforts.

Inspector Matheson had charge of the police and the splendid control of the crowd, that would otherwise have seriously impeded the firemen, is to be commended.

The godown had been entirely closed since Saturday afternoon, and the fire must evidently have been smouldering for some time before it was seen.

Some thirty-five years ago the godown now destroyed was the Lyceum Theatre, after which it was occupied by the short-lived firm of Archd. Campbell & Co., and then by Messrs. Reid, Evans & Co.

DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF THE THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS.

A Havas telegram received here on Friday announced the total destruction by fire of the Théâtre Français at Paris with all its priceless contents, one actress being reported burnt to death. The destruction of the House of Molière, the home of the Comédie Française, created by royal decree in 1680, and which has flourished uninterruptedly ever since, is the greatest blow that theatrical art could receive. The great building now destroyed was opened originally in 1789, and much enlarged in 1864. It contained not only a large theatre with all its appurtenances and numbers of dressing-rooms such as no ordinary theatre provides, but a picture gallery, a museum, and a library, full of treasures of incalculable value, which can never be replaced. It is to be hoped that the destruction will turn out not to be so complete as it is now supposed to be.

REPORTED CABAL IN PEKING AGAINST VICEROY LIU.

A rather startling dispatch from Nanking has been received here by a prominent member of the Reform Party, who further declares that it came from an absolutely reliable source. We translate the same as follows:—

"Friends of Viceroy Liu K'un-yi, who are in Peking, have lately sent a warning to H.E. to the effect that a section of the most bigoted of the Conservative party in the capital are conspiring to do H.E. harm either on his way North or when he reaches Peking, the object being apparently to prevent H.E. from having an audience of the Empress Dowager, who is said to have great confidence in him. This conspiracy is because H.E. is suspected of favouring the Reform Party and that he is determined upon saving those members who have been selected for persecution. H.E. is therefore urgently advised to delay his journey North for the present, at least until the political atmosphere clears. This advice is apparently unheeded, for H.E. has signified his intention to start for Peking on the 15th instant. The great danger, however, lies in another direction, for with his numerous friends and well-wishers the old Viceroy is comparatively safe from any physical danger at the hands of his enemies. The real danger lies in the very strong section at Nanking of the great Hunan Party in the Liangkiang provinces, who acknowledge no leader but the old Viceroy. It is feared that should this story become known amongst the excitable Hunanese in Nanking they may push matters so far as to prevent H.E. from starting for the North. Next to the

Viceroy the man the Hunanese have most confidence in is General Li Chan-ch'un, Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Lower Kiangsu, whose headquarters are at Sungkiang, some 25 miles from Shanghai, who is also commander of the Nanyang fleet. To prevent any contretemps on the part of his friends the Viceroy has sent for General Li to come to Nanking post-haste, probably to use his influence in keeping these people quiet."

Colour is lent to the above by the fact that General Li actually started for Nanking on the cruiser *Nansheng* on Friday last, and that he had on board a detail of some forty Hunan veteran soldiers, who are to act as a bodyguard to H.E. Viceroy Liu on his journey to Peking.

THE UNFORTUNATE EMPEROR.

The following letter from a member of the Reform Party in Peking who got his information from one of the Empress Dowager's eunuchs, who was an eye-witness, has been courteously placed at our disposal and we translate it literally as follows, as what is stated is perfectly reliable:—

"To 'begin at the beginning,'—previous to the 22nd of January last, Peking was filled with disquieting rumours which gradually filtered into the Palace. Some declared that the Emperor had already been secretly deposed; others again stated that the Emperor had been made away with by poison; but when the Empress Dowager heard of them she simply smiled in that grim way of hers which, to the terrorised eyes of those around her, meant that she had decided on some course which even if it were paved with the blood of thousands would not deter her from her subsequent goal. It is also significant of the woman that none—except, perhaps, her favourite eunuch, Li Lien-ying, and Prince Ching—of those who daily attended upon her, knew exactly what the Empress Dowager actually intended to do, although it was quite clear that some sort of coup was on the tapis. But when the fateful 24th of January, 1900, came, every one knew that, only a few hours before, the Emperor had been forced to sign his abdication and a gloom spread over the capital like a pall, accentuated as it was by chilly, lowering skies.

"I was one of those who stood around with inkslab and pen for the Emperor to use, while the Empress Dowager herself held out two pen to him. Even then his Majesty hesitated to take it and sign the ready prepared 'Imperial' decree of abdication held out to him; but an imperious stamp of the right foot and those piercing, menacing eyes of the Empress Dowager frowning upon him seemed to enthral and fascinate the Emperor, who immediately stretched forth a trembling hand and the next moment, with a groan and a gesture of despair, as it were, the fatal deed was done and the Empress Dowager had triumphantly snatched the 'decree' from her nephew's hand. Then a sudden change occurred, which those around her were too accustomed to see to be startled or astonished at. The Empress Dowager's face became instantly suffused with smiles, her eyes became soft and benevolent and she was all kindness and motherly solicitude for her Imperial nephew! He, poor fallen Majesty! had sunken down on his chair after signing the fatal paper, while a sudden deadly paleness manifested itself on his countenance and a moment after he had dyed his robe and the carpet beneath him with his life blood. His Majesty's excitement had been too much for his weak health and it seemed that he had burst one of his lesser blood vessels. Very kindly and gently the Empress Dowager herself attended to the Emperor and,

when he seemed to have somewhat recovered himself, herself supported him on one side, waving away the eunuch who had come forward to do so, and with a surpassing solicitude for his health and comfort, arranged the pillows and cushions in his Majesty's sedan-chair, which was to carry him back to his usual prison—the water-surrounded kiosk at the Southern Lake Palace which is very near the Empress Dowager's own residence of Eho Park. She herself escorted the Emperor to his place of retreat called the *Ying-t'ai*, and having seen him securely confined within its high walls and the drawbridge once more brought over, her face resumed that hard inscrutable look usual to it, as she and her numerous retinue returned to Peking. All the way from Peking to his prison, I heard the Emperor weeping at his hard fate. He was so utterly broken down and oppressed. Poor Majesty! his meanest subject amongst his 400 million people would have refused to exchange places with him on that day. Many of us who escorted his Majesty dropped tears of sympathy, and I peeped at the author of all his evils to see how she took it. Her heart seemed to be of stone. There was that set, stern look in her eyes but not the least sign of softening.

"I can assure you that the Empress Dowager had everything prepared for the crowning of the new Emperor on the 1st day of the New Year (31st January), but on the 27th of the month the Tsungli Yamen handed to her Kin Lien-shan's memorial, praying that 'the Emperor be allowed to resume the reins of government, even in his illness, for that was the only way to satisfy his Majesty's millions of subjects throughout the Empire.'

"Oh, the rage of the Empress Dowager when she read that obnoxious telegram! I have seen many of her displays of temper and anger but none like this one—it surpassed even her rage at Kang Yü-wei and his Reformers. We eunuchs and even the Prince of Li, who brought the telegram, were simply terrified and trembled lest her anger should fall on anyone present! 'Who dare send such a telegram?' at last came her question—'Kin Yuan-shan (Kin's official name) of Shanghai, and over a thousand others' was the Prince of Li's reply. 'Very well. We'll show them how we deal with traitors who cross our path,' and the Prince of Li backed out of the presence with a sense of relief clearly depicted on his face. As a matter of fact, I really think if this had been the only protest sent the Empress Dowager and her advisers would have tried to brazen it out and have ignored the telegram; but unfortunately for their schemes no less than forty-six protests of the same kind came to Peking, one after the other, some a dozen in a day, until the Empress Dowager believed that there was really something in it and decided to defer her coup.—Mark me, not gave up her intentions, but merely deferred them.

"As a consequence Kin Lien-shan is praised sky-high as a devoted patriot and supporter of the Emperor by almost everyone in Peking, always excepting the Empress Dowager, her advisers and their partisans; but on the other hand, these denounce Kin as the ringleader of rebellion, and I may give a warning that the Empress Dowager is determined to have his head even if it should cost her half the Empire. There will be nothing left undone in order to encompass her end, and I heard the Empress Dowager say recently to Prince Ching, who as Grand Chamberlain can enter the Palace at all hours of the day and night to see the Empress Dowager, that 'others of Kang Yü-wei and Kin's party must also be put out of the way before either she or the new Emperor will be able to rule the empire quietly.' Finally you may not know that, ever since the fateful, enforced abdication of the Emperor, his Majesty has four times attempt-

ed to commit suicide; his last attempt being the refusal of food and drink in order to starve himself to death."

Peking, 2nd March.

THE BOXERS OF CHIHLI PROVINCE.

Much has been written about the doings of the "Boxers" or *Yiho Ch'uan* in Shantung province, but a letter received lately by a Tientsin merchant here from his family in the district city of Hsin-h'eng, prefecture of Paoing, the provincial capital of Chihli, which we have been allowed to translate, while both amusing and interesting, will show how these ruffians in Chihli manage for themselves.

"The Boxers in Chihli who were initiated last year by emissaries sent by the Parent Society in Shantung, have apparently made their headquarters here in our district and some 800 of them are now gathered in a walled hamlet only a few miles outside our city. So long as these men were occupied in organising themselves, seeking recruits, and collecting swords, spears and firearms—mainly revolvers—and evidently had no time to make any disturbances on a large scale, it seemed that our bright magistrate merely closed his eyes and ears and ignored their existence. He apparently trusted to his lucky star that the Boxers would not organise any riots against the Christian villages in his jurisdiction, whereby he would escape trouble and censure from the Viceroy at Tientsin. Unfortunately this magistrate's star was anything but lucky for him, for no sooner had these Boxers got everything ready for taking the field than they began to menace the safety of several Christian hamlets near by, which had long expected trouble and had repeatedly notified their dangerous condition to the district magistrate whose name, by the way, is Sieh, but in vain. At last when matters culminated in a decided attempt to storm a Christian village, the district magistrate was compelled to appeal to Tientsin for help. This news getting to the ears of the leaders of the Boxers, a strong party of them visited the magistrate's *yamen* and demanded his apology and also funds and supplies in aid of the holy cause.

"Although it appeared that the magistrate had been notified of the proposed visit and had collected by his side several petty military offices who commanded patrols in the neighbourhood of Hsinch'eng and had about 100 of their soldiers, besides some 70 *yamen* runners and thief-takers, he was thoroughly cowed by the threatening aspect of the Boxer leaders and their 50 well-armed, mounted followers. And though the military officers, despising the small numbers of the Boxers, were indignant at the cowardice of the magistrate and wished to arrest the daring enemy, the magistrate would not allow it and tried to parley with them. One of the conditions preferred by our magistrate was that, if he granted their demand for supplies and funds, the Boxers should guarantee to leave Hsinch'eng district free from all disturbances! In other words, so long as Hsinch'eng and its dependencies were left in peace the Boxers could work their will on the Christians of other districts for aught our Magistrate cared. But the Boxer leaders evidently had their eyes on certain well-off Christians in their neighbourhood and emphatically refused to yield to the magistrate's demand.

"In the meantime the Boxers in the *yamen* were being gradually and quietly reinforced by men from their village encampment until at last there were some 400 of them well-equipped and armed in front of the *yamen*. Finding themselves now strong enough for every eventuality the leaders at once made it plain to the

magistrate that, if he was so ill-advised as to decline to give them funds and supplies, they would help themselves not only by plundering his Honour and his *yamen* but also every shop and residence in the city worth sacking.

"On being told these terms the magistrate looked at his military officers and the officers looked at him, for by this time, seeing how matters stood, these valiant military officers were not one-tenth as anxious to arrest the Boxer leaders as they had been an hour ago. Finally, there being 'no help for it,' as the magistrate puts it, the magistrate ordered a thousand bags of rice to be handed out of the city granary to the Boxers and a package of silver, as 'drink money' to the leaders. The latter then asked how much silver the package contained and were told 'Tls. 50.' In a most matter-of-fact way the Chief of the Boxers called for a balance from the *yamen* account nt's room, which being brought, revealed the fact that there was only Tls. 49.30 in the package! With a curse the Chief threw the opened package into the room where the parley was being held, and the broken pieces of silver rolled over the whole place, some of which getting to the line of Boxers in the rear of the leaders were, of course, surreptitiously snatched up. The magistrate turned pale and so did the military officers. 'What would you have then, my brave hero' (*chuang shih*)? was the quivering question of the magistrate.—'Your life, if you are not careful!' was the fierce and menacing reply of the Chief Boxer. 'If you thought that the drink money we bestowed upon you was insufficient, why didn't you say so, instead of throwing the money away in a manner so insulting to the generous heart of his Honour? Name your requirements,' said one of the military officers braver than the rest. 'Four hundred taels and not a *candareen* less,' was the reply. 'But,' said the magistrate, 'there isn't such a sum in the whole *yamen*. How can I give what I have not?' 'Then you will have to come with us and take the risk,' replied the Chief, at the same beckoning to one of his companions to bring up the rest of the Boxers into the room.

"The magistrate groaned; then signing to his secretary, the man went to an inner room and brought out without more ado seven packages of silver which were laid on the table which stood between the officials and the Boxer leaders. 'How much is that?' asked the Chief—'Tls. 350, which, with the money on the floor will make up the amount you demand,' was the reply. 'Bring out another package while you are about it. I intend the money on the floor as drink money, as you call it, for my men.' No sooner had these words been spoken by the Chief than there was a rush and a scramble, and in an instant all the silver lying on the floor was snatched up by the Boxers who had followed their leaders into the room. The latter then sarcastically bent one knee to the magistrate and grinned their thanks for 'his Honour's generosity.'

"The Chief then methodically weighed the silver in a provokingly slow manner, compelling the magistrate to make good the loss of weight in every package supposed to contain 'fifty taels of good silver,' after which with another sarcastic bend of one knee the Boxers slowly filed out of the room into the great courtyard, where they were joined by the bulk of their men, and so on out of the city into the country. As an instance of the contempt in which these Boxers hold the officials and troops, when they came out of the *yamen* they made no attempt to provide against attack or surprise *en route*, but joked and laughed with the people who lined the streets leading to the city-gate. In contrast to this, as soon as the magistrate found that the Boxers had completely left the city, he ordered the gates to be closed at once,

commanded the walls to be manned by *min-t'uan*, or trained bands of the city, some 200 of them, and acted generally as if there were a state of siege. In other words 'mending his leaky roof, after a disastrous storm of rain.' Another urgent appeal for aid was then sent to Viceroy Yü Lu at Tientsin, and we hear that H.E. intends to send General Ho of Tientsin here 'to investigate.' In the meantime the Boxers, encouraged by what has passed, have become more daring and audacious in their attacks on innocent men, while their numbers are being constantly augmented—all because of the cowardice of the mandarins, both civil and military.

Hsinch'eng, 1st March."

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR CONVENTION AT FOOCHOW.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the Christian Endeavour Convention to be held at Foochow early in April. It is altogether likely that there are in Shanghai but few people who understand the significance of such a gathering in China. The Christian Endeavour movement is still very young but it has had a most remarkable growth in numbers and power for doing good. The first society was organised in the United States in 1882, and in 1899 there were 3,400,000 young people, representing almost all Protestant denominations, all working together with the distinct purpose of advancing Christ's Kingdom. The secret of the wonderful vitality of the movement is to be found largely in that it enlists the life and energy of Christian young people in advancing the work of the Church. It trains up Christian people who know that Christianity now-a-days means doing something positive for the cause of Christ. It is the influence that is fast bringing the various denominations to a realisation of the essential unity of their objects. Those who are acquainted with the work of the Society will not question that it is the most vital part of the Christian Church in the United States and Canada. It has also gained a firm footing in Great Britain.

One of the distinguishing features of the Christian Endeavour Society is its annual Conventions. There are County, State, and National conventions, all of which have for their object the bringing together for the good of the general society the collected experience of all united societies. A National Convention in America brings together delegates from every corner of the United States and Canada, and is one of the strongest forces in welding the people together in political as well as religious unity.

The coming Convention in Foochow hopes to do for the Chinese Christian Church what a home convention would do for the home church. Dr. Francis E. Clark, who will be the principal inspiration of the Convention, is "The Father of Christian Endeavour," having founded the original society in the State of Maine, U.S.A. He is known throughout his own country as "Father Clark." He is now holding a National Convention in Japan, and from China will go to England to attend the international Convention to be held next summer in London. We in Shanghai are more or less cut off from that spirit of altruism which in spite of occasional appearances is characteristic of the age in our home-lands, and we should not neglect the opportunity soon to be ours of meeting the leader of probably the strongest organization which has for its object the nurture of this spirit.

FIRE INSURANCE PROFITS.

The following table relating to the year 1898-9, extracted from the *Finance Chronicle*, shows the amount of business done and the profits of twenty-six British fire offices doing business in Shanghai:—

Offices.	Losses, Com., & management.	
	Net pre-miums.	£
Alliance.....	513,729	501,271
Atlas.....	389,644	371,411
Commercial Union.....	1,092,822	982,041
Equitable.....	214,458	197,711
Guardian.....	363,881	334,837
Imperial*.....	612,544	612,685
Lancashire.....	705,788	699,734
Liv Union and Crown.....	137,909	105,609
Lion*.....	190,333	203,045
Liverpool, London and Globe.....	1,500,793	1,402,809
London and Lancashire.....	836,497	801,480
London Assurance.....	376,017	358,253
Manchester.....	831,217	817,796
National of Ireland*.....	304,188	319,053
North British and Mercantile.....	1,424,258	1,345,600
Northern.....	681,789	617,192
Norwich Union.....	941,011	889,900
Palatine*.....	663,465	687,890
Patriotic.....	150,319	145,329
Phoenix.....	1,133,495	1,037,678
Royal.....	2,003,566	1,862,653
Royal Exchange.....	584,842	378,323
Scottish Union and National.....	535,521	524,232
State.....	70,060	68,108
Sun.....	1,029,595	972,586
Union.....	456,808	451,521
	£17,574,549	16,688,747
	16,688,747	
Profit.....	£885,802	say 5.04%

* Showing a loss.

THE ARREST OF KIN LIEN-SHAN.

We translate below a dispatch received by members of the Reform Party here from friends at Macao concerning the arrest and trial of Mr. Kin Lien-shan, the Reformer, and lately Manager of the Chinese Telegraphs here:—

"Viceroy Li Hung-chang's emissary, Liu Hsiö-hsun, whom three years ago ex-Viceroy Tan got permission from Peking to summarily decapitate for defrauding Government of Weising Lottery dues, arrived here on the 24th of February with dispatches from his patron to the Governor of Macao demanding the extradition of Kin Lien-shan on the charge of having defrauded the Shanghai Telegraph Administration of several tens of thousands of taels. This being a criminal charge the Portuguese authorities were compelled to cause the arrest of Mr. Kin and he was accordingly taken into custody on the following day (25th Feb.) The formal trial was to take place on the 28th of the month at the Barracks (*Ping-fung*) when Liu Hsiö-hsun was expected to produce proofs of the alleged frauds, etc., under which Mr. Kin had been ostensibly charged. On the day in question Mr. Kin was provided by the Portuguese authorities with a four-bearer sedan-chair in which he was carried in mandarin style from his place of confinement to the Court. When he arrived there Mr. Kin was accosted by high Portuguese officials, who told him that he had their sympathies; that he would be treated with every courtesy and consideration, and that the authorities would do their best to obtain his release. We feel certain that Mr. Kin and the Party he represents owe all this to the generosity of the various foreign newspapers of Hongkong and Shang-

hai, and also because Mrs. Archibald Little, the well-known President of the Natural Feet Society, most eloquently wrote to the Portuguese officials pleading for justice and kind treatment on behalf of our friend, on whose behalf also a large number of wealthy and distinguished friends of Reform had also presented a petition to the Portuguese Governor explaining the real reasons of Mr. Kin's persecution by the Chinese Government.

"Before the day of trial a certain English gentleman in Macao, who has been doing his best to assist Mr. Kin, suggested to the Governor of Macao that, as Mr. Kin had been accused of defrauding the Chinese Telegraphs in Shanghai, within the limits of the British Settlement, he should by rights be allowed British lawyers to assist in his defence. This was happily allowed by the Portuguese authorities, who, on the other hand, were being hard pressed by the emissary, Liu Hsiö-hsun, who tried his best to get hold of Mr. Kin without a formal trial, claiming that the preliminary investigation, when Mr. Kin was arrested, was legally sufficient for the turning over of his custody to the Chinese Government, as in other ordinary criminal cases of extradition.

"As soon as the Portuguese authorities permitted Mr. Kin to be defended by British lawyers, telegrams were at once sent to Hongkong by friends to engage the best counsel available there, and accordingly on the morning of the 28th three legal gentlemen from Hongkong appeared at Court. Nothing important occurred on the first day of trial, the time being occupied only as regarded identification, etc. The question of the defrauding of Government money was not touched. A remand was then asked for by Mr. Kin's counsel and granted, the next trial being fixed a week from now. Matters, however, look more favourable than at first.

Macao, 1st March."

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

MEETING IN SHANGHAI.

A meeting was held on Wednesday (7th) afternoon at the residence of Mr. Pelham L. Warren, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, to consider what steps should be taken to collect subscriptions in aid of the present severe famine in India, an appeal for funds having just been received by telegram from his Excellency the Viceroy. There were present Sir N. J. Hannen, Messrs. T. R. Wheelock, F. Anderson, J. E. Judah, S. A. Hardoon, J. Kerfoot, Geo. McBain, R. M. Campbell, J. Prentice, W. V. Drummond, J. T. Hamilton, P. M. Sethna, B. C. Sethna, G. J. Morrison, C. Dowdall, C. Buchanan, T. E. Trueman, F. E. Taylor, J. C. Bois, J. L. Scott, the Rev. Dr. Muirhead, and the Rev. H. C. Hodges. After some general discussion, it was proposed by Sir N. J. Hannen, seconded by Mr. F. Anderson, and carried unanimously.

"That for the purposes of collecting for this fund the Settlement should be divided into districts the same as was done with the South African Fund, and that it be left to Mr. Warren as Chairman and Mr. Scott, as Secretary, to ask gentlemen to undertake the collection of funds in specified districts."

The appointments of Mr. J. L. Scott as Hon. Secretary, and Mr. J. P. Wade Gardner as Hon. Treasurer were also confirmed.

The *Westminster Budget* of the 2nd ultimo has the following striking article by Frederick Greenwood. Numerous and handsomely met as the calls have been upon us of late, British subjects in Shanghai should still be able to spare something considerable for India. It is the irony of

fate that her suff-rings are enhanced by the excellence of our rule, under which the population increases at an almost appalling rate. Mr. Greenwood says:—

The newspapers have just announced, on the highest authority, that the people of India stand in view of the most calamitous prospect of famine that has ever threatened the country: that it is inevitable: and that in consequence of the all-absorbing war in South Africa no help may be expected from any source in England. Mr. Ibbetson, Home member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, is the authority for the first of these statements, the Viceroy himself for the last: and considering what Lord Curzon says, there is need to look closely to what is said by Mr. Ibbetson.

It is this. In some parts of the country the food-prospects are good, in others fair, in others indifferent. But the Punjab harvest is the worst for many seasons, while the coming spring crop in the unirrigated tracts will be supplied from half the area sown in recent years. In Bombay "there is no previous record of so extensive and total a failure of crops." From the central Provinces is reported "a failure so severe and widespread as has never been experienced before." In the fertile Berars the cotton crop is almost wholly lost: "all the other crops have practically failed entirely: no such calamity has ever before befallen this part of India." And so throughout Rajputana, South-East Punjab, and the western half of the States of Central India: "the present drought is without a parallel in extent and intensity." In all, the "true famine" area includes a population of 40,000,000. There is "a further area with a population of 21,000,000, where more or less general scarcity and distress prevail." It is feared that in many places "destitution has reached or will reach a higher stratum of society than has ever been affected before since the country came under British rule."

So Mr. Ibbetson reports in Council, with more beside; and thereupon the Viceroy makes a speech, which is not very surprisingly called "impressive." Unhappily, Lord Curzon says, the attention of England is turned from India in this unspeakable distress. "We have to suffer and struggle alone." Not but what "our troubles, in so far as they are known in England, will excite just as genuine and poignant emotion as on previous occasions;" but then the whole thoughts of England are fixed upon the war in South Africa and on that only. "Even in this country we feel patriotic anxiety and nervous strain, whether we be Europeans or natives: how much more must it be in England, where the honour and prestige of the old country are felt to be at stake! And if the war absorbs all interest in England, so does it exhaust the national generosity." It is to be feared that nowhere out of India "can we expect more than passive sympathy with our misfortunes."

For corroboration of Lord Curzon's views, mark the fact that little notice has been taken in England of Mr. Ibbetson's terrible report (none that has come to my knowledge) or the Viceroy's very remarkable speech upon it. Or if we would learn the feeling in India itself, here is Reuter's agent at Calcutta with a word or two of information: "The grave situation arising from the famine is of entirely secondary interest as compared with the war."

For delivery in *camerâ* Lord Curzon's speech was the most natural and proper thing in the world. For publication in the newspapers, which must be taken to include the vernacular Press of India, it could hardly have been intended. It is true that there would have been no harm in acknowledging that an exceptional call upon every Englishman's purse, by gift or taxation, must greatly diminish the hope of help for India. There was even a good reason for publishing such an acknow-

ledgment: to do so was preparing the people of India for strict economic regulation in dispensing relief. But even so, a simple statement of the hapless coincidence of two great misfortunes would have been enough. It is not as if the members of the Viceroy's Council themselves needed more. They hardly needed so much, indeed; wherefore we must suppose that this picture of England with her back turned upon a famine-stricken India an India, left "to suffer and struggle alone" while Britain broods upon her own unexpected anxieties, was drawn for the contemplation of the public in general. It is picturesquely but not wisely done. But being done it cannot be undone; and now England has to do what would not have been neglected upon a less despairing and a less surprising appeal.

Famine in India, said one of the greatest of her servants, will one day break down the Indian Government. For the Indian Government has been compelled to make the combating of famine a part of its business. But famine is and ever has been constantly recurrent in India; and the thousands or millions of people saved from death during one visitation breed so many additional victims to be provided for at the next. That has become a well-proved difficulty, and it grows according to arithmetical promise. But it is unavoidable. It must be endured: and is no more to be put by on this occasion than another. Whether so much can be done as heretofore when the need was less appalling I do not know; but neither do I know why not. The duty is what it was, the call upon it is sharper than ever before, and—if we must think of South Africa—with a far better right to be answered than the cry of a mongrel multitude of Outlanders starving for the franchise. And considering how many Indian traders and others are watching affairs in South Africa on the spot, considering the natural effect of the Viceroy's speech on the famine, and considering a typical piece of news to be quoted presently, there are particular reasons for showing, I think, that we still have bread to break for the Queen's famishing subjects in India. The little piece of news referred to just now is only this—but there is something in it to the purpose. It comes from the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*: "The movement under which Indian regiments are contributing a day's pay to the Transvaal War Fund is spreading. The Sepoys are acting quite on their own initiative in subscribing."

But the ways and means of help for India? Lord Curzon was right when he said, "If the war absorbs all interest, so does it exhaust all generosity." All or nearly all generosity is exhausted by the war, no doubt. Open a public subscription list for the Indian calamity, and partly, perhaps, because it is so enormous a misfortune, so entirely beyond all hope of adequate relief, little success should be expected. Then, irregular as the proceeding may be, and signally inconvenient with the prospect of a shilling income-tax, the Treasury must "part." Why, when we are spending millions by the score, thousands and thousands for the mere mistaken detention and overhauling of foreign ships—why may we not add to the bill of the year a million or so for so good, so dutiful, so wise a purpose as this? Sixty millions added to the debt, or sixty-one, does it matter so much when we think of the purpose to be served or the duty to be shirked? Few of us out of the offices of her Majesty's Treasury can think so.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

WE have been asked to republish the following letter, all over-seas people being interested in the matter referred to in it. Messrs. W. H. Everett and Son are largely engaged in the business of dispatching newspapers, etc., to subscribers abroad:—

NEWSPAPERS AND THE MAILS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE TIMES."

Sir,—Your correspondent "Philo," writing *re* the Cape Mail, urges the Post Office, while despatching letters posted up to the advertised time up to which postal matter is received, to leave newspapers behind.

This would be very well if the Post Office would, in this and other cases, honestly state that, where the mail is so in excess as to render it impossible to get it away in its entirety, precedence is given to letters, and any portion of the remaining matter left behind should be stamped "Delayed through pressure," and forwarded by the next mail.

If this were done the public, who do not expect the impossible, would be satisfied when it was shown that such was the case, and those, like ourselves, who are engaged in posting newspapers, magazines, etc., to all parts of the world, would be relieved from being blamed for delay which is beyond our control.

As it is, the postal authorities foster the idea that the fault is not with them, by using cancelling stamps which do not indicate whether the package passed through their hands last week or last month, so there is no fixing them in the matter; yet they reply, in cases of complaint, "if posted in time it would have been forwarded," leaving us to bear the blame and possible loss where really blame attaches to no one.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,
W. H. EVERETT AND SON.

Salisbury Square, London, E.C.

ON the 21st of February, Lord Brassey addressed the newly-formed Singapore branch of the Navy League. At the close of his lecture, Lord Brassey made the following reference to South African affairs:—

We cannot now discuss the merits of the controversy. We have not sufficient knowledge. There is only one course for loyal citizens. It is to stand shoulder to shoulder and be unsparing of themselves in the service of their country. The younger members of my own family, I am proud to say, have not held back. My son, my only son, has volunteered to serve with the yeomanry. I have a son-in-law in command of Colonial troops. I have a nephew in the 9th Lancers, who in a recent letter reported that he had been under fire on fourteen consecutive days. We have seen the value of Colonial levies; not for the first time has it been shown that in every Colony in the occupation of a British population the Colonists themselves are its best defence. We can send out no troops from England who will beat the Cape forces in warfare against the Boers. From the Boers themselves we have learned to what a pitch of efficiency citizen soldiers can be brought. Compulsory enlistment is impossible. In efficiency the British regular army must be second to none. The promotion of officers to the highest rank must as far as possible be by selection for skill and conduct. There are hardly any other points on which it is safe to speak. One thing more I may say with the assurance of your hearty assent. The acceptance by Lord Roberts of the chief command in South Africa, under circumstances of the most sad bereavement, was an act of patriotic duty for which the Empire owes him a deep debt of gratitude (*hear, hear*). I note with satisfaction the proclamation issued by Lord Roberts to the Free State. When we come once more to negotiations I am not in favour of such rigorous terms.—*China Mail*.

LORD Beaconsfield once said in the House that the condition of the chemical trade was the criterion of British Commerce in general. It is therefore very satisfactory to read the following remarks in the *Monthly Review*, published by Messrs. Sacré & Co. at Manchester on the 1st ult. :—

Since the advent of the New Year the chemical markets have maintained a steady and consistent position, quite free from either excitement or nervousness. Considering it was the first month of the year, and that little was to be expected from new contracts of any dimensions, the bulk of business done has been comparatively large, and this may be said of the Home as well as of the Export branch. This must be considered satisfactory in the repeated and violent disturbances of the money markets, and the unrest and apprehension occasioned by the vicissitudes of our Army in South Africa.

THE following notes are from the *Westminster Budget*:—

The ravages of the famine in India must be fearful. Lord Curzon, at the Viceroyal Council last Friday, said the stricken area of India had expanded to a degree surpassing the worst fears, and the country was face to face with a scarcity of cattle, water, and food which was terrible in character and intensity. Nearly three and a quarter millions of people were now receiving relief. They must struggle alone in saving millions of lives, for the thoughts of Englishmen were centred in South Africa. Will it never be possible to do anything to prevent these ever-recurring disasters?

The text of a remarkable letter addressed by Mahmoud Pasha to the Sultan has been published. It reproaches his Majesty with employing as officials feeble or intriguing, lying and corrupt old men; with trampling on rights and all humane sentiments without giving a thought to his subjects, who were compelled by his despotism to leave the country; and with destroying the finances of the State. He concludes by saying that, as he could not induce the Sultan to change his mode of government, he left the country, so that he might enlighten the nation and show the people the dangers of the present régime.

The trial of twelve Assumptionist Fathers was commenced in Paris on Monday. The charge against the defendants is that they belonged to an unauthorised confraternity which, the Public Prosecutor explained, had existed for fifty years without the sanction of the Government or the approval of the Pope. Recent investigations showed that the members of the Order took a prominent part in political matters.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s SUPREME COURT. IN BANKRUPTCY.

Shanghai, 9th March.

Before F. S. A. BOURNE, Esq.,
Official Receiver.

Re WILLIAM CURTIS.

This was the first meeting of the creditors of William Curtis, of 8, Canton Road, Shanghai, hotel proprietor and caterer. Mr. Francis Ellis (Messrs. Browett and Ellis) appeared for the debtor; Mr. T. Morgan Phillips (Messrs. Drummond, Phillips, and White-Cooper) for Mr. Mondon, a creditor; Mr. J. H. Teesdale (Messrs. Stokes and Platt) for Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., creditors; Mr. H. P. Wilkinson for himself; and there were also present a number of creditors, European and Chinese.

The Official Receiver said the first business of the meeting was the appointment of a trustee—if the creditors so desired. It was a small estate, and if no trustee was appointed the Official Receiver under the Act would be trustee. That was the most important point they had to consider. As to the statement of accounts, the counsel for the bankrupt had not been able to put them in in proper time to allow of their circulation, and he would read them a summary. The liabilities amounted to \$6,772.48. There were debts due to the estate of \$1,413.47, and of these the debtor expected to be able to collect one half. Accordingly the estate had been credited with \$706.75. Thus a deficiency was shown of \$6,065.72. That was to say that if the sanguine view of the bankrupt was a correct one the creditors would get as total assets \$706.75.

Mr. F. Ellis said that in the statement of affairs under list C it was stated that the bankrupt was indebted to his late partner, James Lee, for a certain sum of money under a bill of sale. The law directed that this statement of affairs should be made at the date of the receiving order, which was the 28th February, but it was only on the previous day (8th March) that Sir Nicholas Hannen had given judgment in this matter, so that this sum of money which was due, was so no longer. That sum would accordingly have to be added to what appeared in the summary.

The Official Receiver—How much will that bring into the estate?

Mr. F. Ellis—\$467 must be deducted from liabilities.

Mr. Wilkinson, as counsel on the other side in the matter of the bill of sale, agreed to this statement. He went on to speak of the matter of the trustee, and expressed the opinion that Mr. A. R. Leake—if he was prepared to undertake it—would be a very good man. He had already gone through, and was well acquainted with, the accounts.

The Official Receiver thought the suggested course the best, and it was finally agreed to unanimously by the creditors. It was further unanimously agreed that Mr. Leake be paid 2½% on receipts and disbursements.

Mr. Heffer asked what was to be done with the lease of the premises?

The Official Receiver—I have disclaimed the lease.

Mr. T. Morgan Phillips said that it had been stated that the debtor had made settlements of money upon certain persons—his wife had been mentioned. He (Mr. Phillips) hoped the attention of the trustee would be particularly directed to this matter, so that he might make particular enquiry into it.

The Official Receiver agreed that Mr. Leake must take note of this.

Finally a resolution adjudging William Curtis a bankrupt was passed unanimously.

Mr. J. H. Teesdale asked whether it was necessary to appoint a manager of the business.

It was intimated that the business had stopped.

H.B.M.'s CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, 13th March.

Before F. S. A. BOURNE, Esq.,
Assistant Judge.

BICKERTON v. SELWYN.

This was a summons by T. L. Bickerton against C. B. Selwyn for \$82.44, balance of amount due on a bicycle.

Mr. Selwyn admitted his indebtedness and said he was willing to pay \$5 per month.

His Honour gave judgment for the amount claimed, the debtor, at his suggestion, agreeing to pay in monthly instalments of \$10. The debtor was also ordered to pay the cost of the summons, \$3.

H.B.M.'s POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 9th March.

Before E. H. BURROWS, Esq.,
Police Magistrate.

R. v. DAVIDSON AND REID.

Thomas Davidson, A.B., of the steamer *Shrewsbury*, and James Reid, unemployed, were charged with having been drunk and incapable in the North Soochow Road, on the 8th instant.

Indian constable 78, stated that at 2.45 p.m. on the 8th instant the two defendants were lying drunk on the North Soochow Road, near the Garden Bridge. Witness roused them and after walking a few paces they again laid down, and then they were arrested.

Davidson, in answer to his Worship, said: "Well, I was drunk, sir; I'm not saying I wasn't."

As he had not been before the Court before his Worship said: "I'll give you one chance and order you to be put on board your ship."

Reid, when asked what he had to say, said: "The Chinese were digging us and running after us and shoving us in the face. We had a glass of whisky in and I was drunk, but if it had not been for the Chinese we would not be here."

His Worship said that the last time Reid was before him he fined him \$10 with the alternative of two weeks in prison. Some European paid the fine in order that Reid might get a ship. Why did he not go in the ship?

Reid said he did not like to go in the ship as she was a German and he could not speak that language. He would not, however, have been the only Englishman on board.

His Worship said that Reid came here on the *Pilgrim* and he would like to know how he had been living since, and how he was able to get drink.

Reid said something to the effect that his friends helped him.

His Worship: I don't know what will become of you if you prefer knocking about here doing nothing instead of signing on. You will go back to prison for two weeks with hard labour.

10th March.

R. v. SIKH CONSTABLE 93.

Sikh Constable 93 was charged with being drunk and disorderly while on duty in the North Soochow Road on the 2nd instant, and also with assaulting certain factory girls and a Chinese constable.

Inspector Harris, who appeared for the prosecution, said the Municipal Council were determined to put a stop to anything of this sort on the part of any constable.

A Chinese woman, Chong Chu-zong, who is employed in a silk filature, said that on the day in question she was returning to her home on a wheelbarrow when the accused put his arm around her neck, and hugged her. She lost an earring worth \$1.

A second factory girl said she was also on her way home when the prisoner put his hands over her eyes. When she pushed them away he struck and kicked her. She lost jewellery to the value of \$2.25.

Inspector Harris mentioned that there were eight other girls who could give similar evidence, but his Worship answered that he did not think it necessary.

The Chinese constable then gave evidence that he heard cries in the North Soochow Road about 6.30 p.m., and, on walking in the direction of the noise, saw a number

of Chinese girls holding the prisoner by the belt. He told them to desist, and to go to the police station if they had a complaint. Shortly afterwards there was more noise, and he saw the Sikh interfering with other girls. He then led all the girls—fifteen in number—to the police station.

Sergeant Lloyds said he was on duty at the West Hongkew Police Station about 7.30 p.m. on the 2nd instant when the Chinese constable reported the matter. Witness sent for the Sikh. This man went on duty at four o'clock, and was to be relieved at eight. He was inspected by a foreign Sergeant before going on duty, but it was often difficult to tell whether these men had been drinking or not. The man was certainly drunk when seen at the station by the witness.

The prisoner admitted that he had been drinking, but did not remember assaulting any of the girls. As to the Chinese constable, he only put a hand on his shoulder.

Inspector Harris said the girls' losses were altogether of the value of \$26.50, according to their statements.

His Worship said he had no doubt of the man's guilt, and inflicted a fine of \$50, or two weeks' imprisonment. He left it to the police to compensate the girls. What, he asked, would the police do with the prisoner?

Inspector Harris replied that the conviction meant that the man would be dismissed from the force.

The fine was paid by a number of Sikhs who were in Court.

MIXED COURT.

Shanghai, 8th March.

Before Mr. WENG (magistrate) and Mr. F. S. A. BOURNE (British assessor).

A. E. ALGAR v. YANG HSIANG-HSIANG.
This case was last heard on the 22nd of February when it was adjourned for the appearance of Mr. Algar's principal. He now appeared before the Court. The Assessor remarked that the case being a purely Chinese one he left it entirely in the hands of the Magistrate. Mr. Algar's principal in the matter was detained at the Court for enquiry as to the real ownership of the ground in dispute.

SUNDAY CASES.

At the Mixed Court on Wednesday (7th instant) before Mr. Weng (magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Mayer (British assessor), a house boy was charged with stealing two gold watches, a gold chain, a silver chain, and a silver keyring and chain, Taels 50 in money, two penknives, a silver cigar cutter, a silver pencil-case, a pocket book and a cigarette case, the property of Messrs. W. E. Dunn and J. F. Jacott. Detective Sergeant Brown, who arrested accused at the East Gate in the City, stated that accused was formerly employed by prosecutors and on the night of the 2nd instant, he entered their premises by the back gate, and, being known to the watch dog, stayed in the yard till the house was in darkness, when he committed the theft. All the property was recovered except \$7 or \$8. A sentence of 200 blows, with six months' imprisonment, was inflicted.—The 28 men arrested in connection with the armed attack on the C. M. S. N. Co's. Lower Wharf, Hongkew, on Tuesday were placed on trial charged with making the attack in order to intimidate working coolies at the wharf. Mr. George Sinnecker, the wharfinger, informed the Bench that defendants were part of a gang of loafers who knocked about Pootung and the China Merchants' wharves and terrorised decent coolies in order to extort money from them. He described how they came in boats and armed to the wharf on Tuesday, and said

they did the same thing at Yangkadu Wharf and at the China Merchants' Eastern Wharf last year. These men, with others, wanted to fight the wharf coolies on Tuesday. They were armed with bamboo lances, chain slings, knives, etc. (many of which were produced in Court). At the request of the assessor witness identified several of the defendants. He arrested the whole 28, and they all had black marks on the temple. Questioned by the assessor, he said he arrested the men by locking the wharf gate on them when they came ashore. Sergeant Thompson, 34, interposed that he arrested three of the prisoners and took knives from them. Mr. Sinnecker said he whistled and caused the men to be arrested in rickshas; none of them had any right to be on the wharf, and if they had come to carry rice they would not have been armed. Sergeant Thompson here pointed out one of the men as having been arrested by Sergeant Gibson, 20. Mr. Sinnecker pointed out four men whom he considered ringleaders. Inspector Ramsay deposed to seeing the black marks on prisoners' faces; he could not say who were the ringleaders. Continuing, Mr. Sinnecker stated that they came off at about 9.30 a.m. and the police arrived 20 minutes later. The men came off in four boats and as the first two lots rushed the wharf all the coolies ran into the godowns and the watchmen were frightened. He arrested three and when the watchmen came he went into a steam launch with Messrs. Harris and Middleton and arrested some more. As others came ashore he penned them in the coalyard, and those the police claimed were arrested through his giving notice. Sergeant Thompson:—You might have given notice but I did not hear you. The magistrate proposed that defendants should be given 1,000 blows and from 6 to 12 months' imprisonment, but the assessor dissented. Mr. Sinnecker: I can hand in a list of 28 names "wanted," three being those of ringleaders, and when you get them, I can produce Chinese witnesses to prove they were on the wharf on Tuesday. The whole of the prisoners were then sentenced each to 1,000 blows and two years' hard labour in the Municipal Prison, the recipients of the penalty owing their consternation at it in very noisy fashion.—On Thursday (8th instant) before Mr. Chang (deputy magistrate) and Dr. Barchet (American assessor), two men were charged by Mr. A. Rosenfeld, of the Laou Kung Mow Cotton Mill with causing the fire at the mill through carelessness on the 7th instant. Mr. Rosenfeld stated that at 6.10 a.m. on the morning of the fire a foreign employee noticed smoke issuing from the mixing-room and gave the alarm. There were only these two men employed in that room, whose duty it was when the engines started of a morning to feed the three shoots with cotton. When the alarm was given the sprinklers turned on automatically and the fire was extinguished, but the damage by fire and water was now estimated at about Tls. 30,000. Mr. Rosenfeld said he could easily discern where the fire had started, but was unable to state the origin. He thought the men might have been smoking in the room, although this was strictly prohibited, as was also the possession of matches. When the men wanted to smoke there was a room downstairs where they could do so. Accused said there were five women who came into the mixing-room. Mr. Rosenfeld said the women went there for a few hours to pick the cotton, but they were not there at the time of the fire; besides, the spot where the women worked was more than 100 feet away from where the fire started. Accused stated they were always searched. Inspector Reed pointed out that even if they were some men hid the articles in convenient places and picked them up afterwards. Accused denied all knowledge of how the

fire occurred or any carelessness, but the Court, though thinking it was not done on purpose, found that there had been carelessness and ordered each of the men to undergo two months' imprisonment.—A Seward Road washerman was accused of being in possession of a bicycle valued at \$80 and unable to account for same. Accused had sold it to another man for \$35 with a security paper that it had been legitimately purchased. Mr. Howard Wilson recognised the machine as one which he hired last January from the International Bicycle Co. It was stolen from him on the 20th of January. Witness asked for compensation for the wear and tear and two months' hire at \$17 a month. The Court ordered accused 14 days' imprisonment, to pay back \$35 to the purchaser and the machine to be returned to Mr. Wilson.—A man who had been convicted of burglary once before was again charged with a similar offence at 106, Peking Road. On this occasion he got away with over \$100 worth of goods, pawned them, rolled the pawn tickets into a bundle, with a note inside stating that at some future time when he had money he would make compensation, and threw the package over a back wall into the house he had robbed. Accused had been caught in an attempt to break into another house in West Hongkew. Inspector Bourke stated that accused had not been long out of prison. He was given 200 blows and two months' imprisonment.—On Friday (9th instant) before Mr. Chang (deputy magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Mayer (British assessor), a native blacksmith was charged with carelessly running a bicycle into a pony which Mr. J. Ashley was driving, and causing severe injuries to the animal. Mr. Ashley stated that the man had taken the machine without permission from a house in the Boone Road; accused could not ride it but was trying to, when he ran into the pony. The occurrence took place in the Boone Road, and Mr. Ashley stated that he did not want compensation for the injury to his animal so much as punishment for practising in the street. Accused was let off with a fine of \$2.—An officer from the P. & O. str. *Paramattu* charged a coolie with stealing some small empty bottles from a broached case in the hold. Witness stated the man had been searched, and the bottles thus found. Witness said such matters had to be taken notice of as they were constantly occurring. Accused was sentenced to receive 50 blows.—Yuen Tai, a compradore in Broadway, charged a man with stealing three cases of butter valued at \$390 from his godown. Detective-Sergt. Gilliland said accused had taken the butter some distance inside Pootung but it had all been recovered. Accused was ordered 300 blows and deportation.—A coolie was accused by Messrs. Cope and Crawford of stealing foodstuff and chickens from their residence. As the prosecutors did not appear he was discharged.—On Saturday morning before Mr. Chang (deputy magistrate) and Mr. Forke (German assessor), a coolie was charged with stealing \$40 from his employer in the Markham Road. A house-boy gave evidence, and Detective-Sergeant Johnson said he had spoken to the coolie last Thursday when he told him that if the money was not forthcoming by Saturday, he would be locked up. The coolie made reply that if his mistress' clothes were searched the money would probably be found. The coolie had taken then money from a drawer which was always locked. \$25 had been found on Friday morning in the pocket of a ball dress where the prosecutrix said she never put money. Suspicion being attached to the boy as well, both boy and coolie were ordered to find the balance.—Two men were charged with storing kerosene oil on their premises in excess of that allowed by the Municipal Regulations

which only permitted the storage of 20 tins. One man had 78 tins the other 130 tins. The former was fined \$15; the latter \$20. —A man named Sung Yau-mee was before the Court on a Mixed Court warrant for a debt of Tls. 2,500. Inspector Wilson stated that instructions had been given to the police to be very careful in handing over people arrested in the Settlement to the Chinese authorities. Complainant in the matter was a Chinese official. Defendant said he owed the money but had given adequate security for it and was surprised at being arrested as only the day before he had been on good terms with complainant. Inspector Wilson desired the case to be thoroughly gone into and he thought it was a political case and arrests of this nature had to be very carefully dealt with. The case was adjourned until to-day to come before Mr. S. F. Mayers. Defendant was released on security. —On Monday (12th inst.) before Mr. Chang (deputy magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Mayers (British assessor), five men appeared before the Court charged with being concerned with others not in custody in stealing chickens from Unkaza and the Bubbling-Well Road district. Mr. E. J. Hogg prosecuted and asked for a remand as it was desirable to get hold of the receivers, one of whom was believed to be a petty official at Siking. Mr. Mordhorst was called and stated he had missed 28 fowls. Messrs. James Johnston and A. W. Burkill also appeared. Inspector Kelly pointed out that one of the men in Court was a receiver. Two accused stated they had sold him eleven fowls. The case was remanded. —Mr. A. Duncan appeared in a case in which he prosecuted a former servant for stealing a box of his boy's clothing. Some four nights ago witness on going home late saw a light moving about in his dining room and upon entering found the box of clothing on the floor and accused concealed behind a door. Accused was given 300 blows and six months' imprisonment. —A rishia coolie was charged with causing damage to Mr. J. T. Hamilton's carriage and a private rishia. Mr. Symons, of the Horse Bazaar, appeared for Mr. Hamilton. Inspector Wilson stated accused was going in the same direction as the carriage and suddenly swerved, without looking behind to see if anything was in the way, causing a damage of Tls. 10 to the carriage and \$2 to a rishia. The Assessor said it was impossible to obtain damages from a rishia coolie, but if it had been the mafo's fault the mafo would have to pay, so that a rishia coolie did not care whether he was careless or not. He (the Assessor) thought there ought to be some regulation by which the rishia owners could be held responsible. Inspector Wilson said that even then the owner might engage good men but these in turn would sublet the rishia when they wanted, but the Court in this case could confiscate the rishia if wished. The assessor was of opinion that the coolies should be licensed and not the rishias. Accused was eventually fined \$2 or seven days' imprisonment. —A godown-keeper at the Ewo Cotton Mill was accused of stealing brass fittings valued at \$6. Mr. W. J. Milley appeared on behalf of the prosecutors, and accused was given 200 blows and 14 days' imprisonment. —Inspector Mellows prosecuted two boatmen for making their empty coal boat fast to the Garden bridge piles. They were each fined \$5. —Two men and two women were accused by the police of kidnapping two little girls of eleven and fifteen years respectively. Inspector Wilson said a letter had been sent into the police station stating that accused were in the habit of kidnapping and selling children. The two women were recognised as having been before the Court previously on a similar charge. The assessor said that according to the evidence given the younger child's father was in Shanghai, but he had entrusted her to accused to sell. The elder child had been sold to them for \$150 and they were

trying to resell her. Two accused (a man and woman), being natives of Shanghai were expelled the Settlement, the others were deported. —Sung Yau-mow, who had been before the Court on Saturday, arrested on a warrant for debt, again appeared before the Court. Inspector Wilson stated defendant had endeavoured to obtain the services of a lawyer but had failed. In the meantime plaintiff had had an interview with defendant and it had been arranged that the latter should sign an agreement making over the land (which had been given some years ago as security for the sum of money now claimed) to plaintiff. This defendant was willing to do, and he was released on the same security as on Saturday, the Assessor observing that should he be arrested again it would be going against the terms on which he was released. Nothing more was said as to the case having any political bearing. —On Tuesday (13th inst.) before Mr. Chang (deputy magistrate) and Mr. S. F. Mayers (British assessor), seven men were charged with gambling in public. Inspector Ramsay stated that Sergt. Gibson and two others had made a raid in private clothes upon a tent in Hongkew where it was known that gambling was continually taking place. Sergt. Gibson said he had entered the tent and watched the men gambling for fully ten minutes before he arrested them. Accused at the time had no suspicion that Mr. Gibson was one of the Police force. A gold signet ring had been found in the possession of one of the men, who was pointed out as being the principal, which Inspector Ramsay said belonged to a well-known resident who had reported losing it some weeks ago. The man stated to the Court that he had a receipt for it as his property, but it was evidenced that he had attempted to throw it away when captured. Inspector Ramsay said it was very difficult to capture such men as they were in the habit of employing others to watch the movements of the police. The Assessor complimented Sergt. Gibson on the raid. The two ringleaders were given 300 blows and six months' imprisonment, the other five three months' each. —Two men were charged with forcibly abducting a girl aged fifteen years. The girl's story was that she had met the two accused at Tsungming whilst she had been sent on an errand. They tried to persuade her to go to Shanghai and, upon her refusal, bound her hand and foot and brought her here; she had been confined in a house in the North Honan Road when some neighbours hearing her cries gave information at the Police Station. The men were given 500 blows and six months' imprisonment each. —A man was accused of throwing lime into a woman's eyes and molesting her daughter. Dr. Barcher examined the woman's eyes and said they were not seriously injured, but might have been much worse. Accused was given 300 blows and two months' imprisonment.

DRAINS WORKING BADLY.

The writer of the letter to which I am about to ask your attention lives in Cork, Ireland. If, the next time he visits Dublin, he will lean over the balustrade of any of the bridges that cross the Liffey, his nose will inform him that a very foul stream runs beneath. In other words, the river is a sort of open drain to the city, and contains what we might expect. The Thames in London is not much better, although no longer used directly for sewage purposes.

The point I want to emphasize is this: that all animal life produces waste matter which, as such, is dangerous to health; and much be got rid of as quickly and thoroughly as possible. That is why all well-regulated cities have elaborate and efficient systems of drainage.

Very well. So much is plain. Now, the human body has such a system too; and when it doesn't work well, the dead, used up, and poisonous stuff (more or less of it) remains in the body and sets going a lot of mischief.

If you don't think so, it is because you haven't studied the subject or observed the operations of your own physical machinery.

Once upon a time something went wrong with this important apparatus in Mr. Cadden's body, and it led to an experience on his part which he has no wish to have repeated.

"For over ten years," he goes on to say, "I suffered from disease of the kidneys. I had excruciating pain in the back and the lower part of my body."

[Of course; because the kidneys are situated in the loins, the best place for the work they have to do. There are two of them, connected together, shaped like a bean, and about four inches long by three inches broad. There they lie, imbedded in fat; and their condition is an important index to the health of the owner. They are full of nerves also and when diseased are sure to cause the keen pain Mr. Cadden speaks of.]

"The secretion," he continues, "was very scant, and I suffered great pain in voiding it, sometimes blood coming away. I got into a low and depressed condition as year after year passed by and I found myself growing worse and worse. What I suffered it is impossible to describe, and I never looked for being well again in this world."

[Our friend's fears were well founded—much better than he realized, probably. Men die of that complaint almost like sheep with the murrain, and even skilled doctors are shy of taking charge of a bad case of it.]

"From time to time," Mr. Cadden says, "I was obliged to leave my work, as the gnawing pain was more than I could bear. I saw doctor after doctor, and went into the hospital, but none of the medicines eased me."

"In June, 1894, I read about Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and got a bottle from the Drug Stores, Pembroke Street, and after taking it, it was so much better that I felt quite another man. I continued with this medicine and all the pain gradually left me. When I had taken three bottles I was completely cured, and have since been in the best of health. I feel truly grateful for what Mother Seigel's Syrup has done for me, in having saved me from a life of misery. You can publish this statement, and refer any one to me." (Signed) J. Cadden, 2, Buckingham Place, Cork, Ireland, August 18th, 1896."

It is the business of the kidneys to take certain waste and worn-out matters from the blood, and expel them from the body through the bladder, &c. They are a vital part of the drainage system I spoke of. In Mr. Cadden's case, as in so many others, they partially failed, and the retained poisons produced his suffering.

Still (and please get a good hold of this point), kidney complaint is only one of a series of organic disorders, all of which arise from chronic dyspepsia. It was so in this instance. The digestive trouble having been set right by Mother Seigel's Syrup, the kidneys soon became healthy. One—and only one—of the peculiar virtues of this famed preparation is its power to maintain in good working order the delicate and very important excretory, or drainage, system of the body.

(5) 14, 21 & 28mr 260

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

PASSENGERS.

OUTWARD.

Per str. *China*, for Nagasaki—Mrs. J. O. P. Bland, Capt. E. R. Hutchings, Messrs. J. Plaw, E. Bianchini, W. E. Leves, T. W. Chang, F. Reville, F. and O. W. Aldis. For Yokohama—Mrs. Von Der Heyde, Mr., Mrs., and Miss J. F. Rodewald. For New York—Mr. F. P. Sharp. For Portland—Mr. O. G. Leslie. For San Francisco—Dr. Mrs. Miss and Masters (2) 'Anright, Rev. Mrs. Misses (3) and Masters (4) Smi and Mr. F. P. Sharp. For London—Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Soothill, Misses (2) Elwin, Messrs. J. Tulloch, and C. R. Morling.

Per str. *König Albert*, for Nagasaki—Miss Jesselsen, Dr. Blanc, and Mr. C. Campbell. For Kobe—Miss Goldsmith, and Mr. H. E. Reynell. For Yokohama—Dr. Peters and Mr. J. Henningsen.

Per str. *Hakui Maru*, for Kobe—Mrs. K. I. we, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. and Miss Kirkland, Misses Gibson, and G. Craigh.

Per str. *Coromandel*, for Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Macenughton, Mrs. Gombolsekiz, Messrs. P. Ja-chke, Parry, Poronoff, Ande Anton A., Black, and G. Haring. For Bombay—Mr. B. F. Balara. For Colombo—Mr. J. H. L. For Port Said—Messrs. G. Markes, and G. Calabria. For Lenton—Capt. W. W. Williams, Messrs. P. Bodd, J. Hannay, Herbert Stone, J. A. Mackenzie, and J. S. Elmore.

Per str. *Guakui Maru*, for Chefoo—Messrs. Wang C. a-gsin, Ching Chueh-ching and Phooka. For Tientsin—Mr. T. Fok.

Per str. *Loehing*, for Tientsin—Mr. and Miss L. Roche.

Per str. *Paga g*, for Nanking—Mrs. M. F. Fisher, and Rev. D. W. Lyon.

Per str. *Anping*, for Tangku—Mr. T. Bulkeley.

Per str. *Hacen*, for Tangku—Mrs. Poulet Mr. and Mrs. Delbecque.

Per str. *Nankin*, for Hankow—Mrs. Tomalin, Misses Munn, and Ravetta, Messrs. De Bavier, and Ferguson.

Per str. *Sing n*, for Tientsin—Mr. T. Role.

Per str. *Ichang*, for Swatow—Mrs. Glassey.

Per str. *Hu-tung*, for Tangku—Mrs. H. L. Squiers and 2 children.

Per str. *Fang-shan*, for Wenchow—Mrs. Greve.

Per str. *Katow*, for Hankow—Dr. Robinson, and Mr. Badet. For Nanking—Mr. Sundius.

Per str. *Nankin*, for Hankow—Mr. Engels.

Per str. *Sing n*, for Chefoo—Mr. J. A. Cooper.

Per str. *H. ching*, for Foochow—Messrs. L. Bartholin, and N. X. Korin. For Tangku—Dr. Frizer Hurst.

Per str. *Anping*, for Tangku—Mr. G. G. Hoskins.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, for Ningpo—Mr. Cardot.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, for Nanking—J. E. Wu.

Per str. *Sing n*, for Tientsin—Mr. Loeffler.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Mr. J. S. Stenhouse.

Per str. *Fichin*, for Chefoo—Col. Floog, Messrs. M. Ogoora, R. Anjou, and E. Standley.

Per str. *Ki nifoo*, for Nankin—Rev. T. B. Ooms. For Wuhu—Rev. T. P. Paris.

Per str. *H. ching*, for Foochow—Mr. M. F. Fisher.

Per str. *Tai-shan*, for Tangku—Mr. Long Sen-chuen.

Per str. *Suico*, for Chinkiang—Mr. J. Neller. For Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Schlichting.

INWARD.

Per str. *König Albert* from Southampton—Mrs. Brent, Mrs. C. C. Smith, Mrs. Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Green and family, Mr. and Mrs. Steevens and family, Misses Law, F. Barn, Reid, Timms, and C. Ware, Messrs. H. F. Hurst, T. Sayle, W. Lang, H. Morris, and T. McLean. From Bremen—Mrs. Voelkel and 2 children, Messrs. W. Redding, O. Cellarius, and H. Lindmeyer. From Genoa—Mrs. C. W. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. A. Wright, Misses Alice and Ethel Wright, Mrs. C. Derkhien, Mrs. Squires, Mrs. Huber, Miss G. Gerken, Messrs. R. Kado, F. Huchtin, R. Macgregor Agassiz, H. Witte, G. Reising, W. E. Kent, B. Gottwaldt, F. Schuler, C. Löffler, and G. Heymann. From Naples—Mr. and Mrs. M. Duncan, Miss Doulton, and Mr. Whitehouse. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Rothli-berger, and Mr. P. Niediesk. From Singapore—Mrs. Fast, Miss Guex, Messrs. C. F. Smith, P. Manuelle, and F. Antonio. From Hongkong—Mrs. C. Watney, Messrs. G. Davis, W. Dipple, K. Wilburn, C. W. Hay, F. Pollitzer, C. Brandt, G. Harling, S. Forens, E. Voelkel, P. Engels, F. Remedios, F. H. Brost, M. Worcus, and B. Strawicz.

Per str. *Kio Maru*, from Japa, etc.—Mr. and Mrs. Ya. a-saki, Mrs. Ward, Miss M. Kacshige, Captains T. Kann, and Himo, Messrs. G. Tomita, Iwahashi Sinclair E. F. Canan, W. Ehrhardt, G. F. Rutherford, K. A. Kilgour, Higuchi, Saka, Kado, A. Y. Wemoto, K. Fujino, Kabayashi, Fuji, T. Shimada, S. Imayeda, S. Kanihi, G. L. Oberg, C. A. Crosse, K. Imakura, Shing Yin-yeung, Kato, Sze Seiyu, B. Hisketh, R. Nielson, H. Randell, E. Canali, Tsuchiya, Tochihara, and Y. Dyshii.

Per str. *Sydney*, from Yokohama—Mr. Long Nin-kong. From Kobe—Messrs. Van

Bose, W. H. Pullan, G. Lam Ben, and Y. Kondo. From Nagasaki—Mr. H. Baur.

Per str. *Tai-shan*, from Hongkong—Mr. Albert Badet.

Per str. *Nippon Maru* from Hongkong—Lieut. Wm. Schulte, Messrs. N. Vilondaki, J. Davis, and J. P. McCoy.

Per str. *Taisang*, from Hongkong and Swatow—Mr. W. Drummond.

Per str. *Lao*, for Hongkong—Messrs. G. Mayer, P. Kremer, Chuk King-ching, Sa Nan-sin, S. N. Rayaya, G. Peerbhoy, T. K. Rowski, J. Menarini, and H. V. Murray.

For Singapore—Messrs. A. Mohr, Gardner, and M. Hamblee. For Saigon—Mr. E. V. Sion. For Colombo—Mr. R. C. Jameson. For Marseilles—Mrs. Esperon, Mrs. Wang, Mrs. Ida, Mr. and Mrs. Buchheister, Messrs. Ovi Tse-kuang, Szie Tamine, and J. Lien.

Per str. *Loong-tan*, from Canton and Hongkong—Mrs. Chong, Mrs. Leung, and Mr. A. Meijer.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mr. Hudson.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, from Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Goodnow, Rev. Jackson, Messrs. Renard, Menarini, Cutnear, Ramasse, and casual.

Per str. *Ku rsberg* from Tientsin and Tsingtao—Misses Fischer, Richter, and Bergemann, Mr. Noble, Messrs. Hubert, Poppin, Lyon, Briker, Geerts, Laulen, Schmitz, Richter, and Herke.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Rev. Segris.

Per str. *Haei g*, from Foochow—Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Latemore, and Ling Y. You.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Mrs. J. Heal and 3 children, and Rev. J. E. Jones.

Per str. *Sual*, from Hankow—Mr. E. Gilardi.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, from Hankow—Messrs. Anton, McCarthy, H. Guelpton, and P. Bently.

Per str. *Solan*, from Hankow—Mr. R. Heidorn. From Nanking—Messrs. J. L. Dawson, C. A. Johnson, and Chang Nih-yun.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Bishop Reynaud.

Per str. *Paohua*, from Hankow—Mr. Trautmann.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Messrs. Petit, Awa, and Price.

Per str. *Suico*, from Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Fische, Messrs. Lemaire, and Ware.

Per str. *Kwongsang*, from Swatow—Dr. A. Simes, and Mr. C. Parsons.

Per str. *Tsintan*, from Tsingtao—Miss Clarke, Messrs. Taeschke, Christiani, Naek, Hermann, Beecher, Petherich, Sonntag, Stickforth, Denby, and Hewlett.

Per str. *W. Cores de Vries*, from Hankow—Mr. Smith.

Per str. *Nagato Maru*, from Taku, etc.—Mr. and Mrs. Kohler and children, Mrs. Hill, Messrs. Schill, Drummond, and A. D. Brent, and Mrs. Hillier and 2 children.

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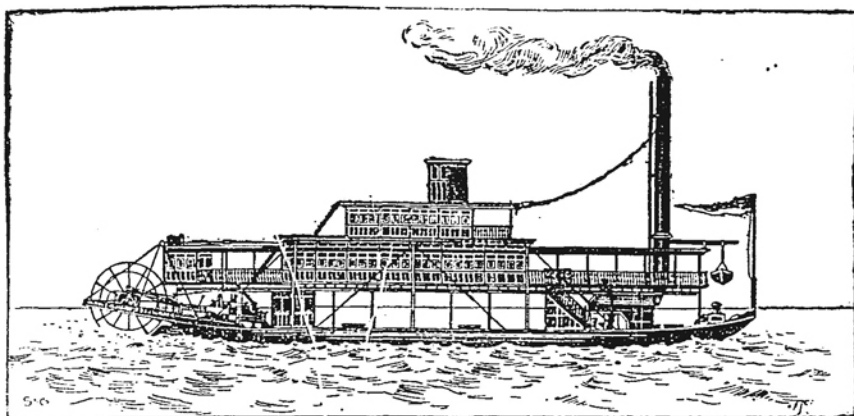
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Shanghai Tals.
Subscribed Capital..... 5,000,000
Paid-up Capital 2,500,000

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:

Canton,	Hongkong.
Chefoo,	Peking.
Chinkiang,	Penang.
Chungking,	Singapore.
Foochow,	Swatow.
Hankow,	Tientsin.

The Bank purchases and receives for collection Bills of Exchange drawn on the above places, and sells Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers payable at its Branches and Agencies.

HEAD OFFICE, SHANGHAI.

ADVANCES MADE ON APPROVED SECURITIES.
BILLS DISCOUNTED.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.

At 2½ per annum on current account
daily balances.
„ 3% „ „ Fixed Deposits for 3 months.
„ 4% „ „ „ „ 6 „
„ 5% „ „ „ „ 12 „

A. W. MAITLAND,
Acting Chief Manager.
31de-99
c.a. 310 Shanghai, 5th Jan., 1900.

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SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS SUPPLIED WITH EACH BOTTLE.

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28th February, 1900.

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Reserve Fund.....\$11,500,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors.\$10,000,000

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INTEREST ALLOWED

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For 3 months,	3 " "

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31de-99-189 Shanghai, 27th Feb., 1900.
(c.a.) Z

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DAILY QUOTATIONS.
(From Messrs. Morris & Robertson's Circular.)

March.	Bar Silver £ oz in L don.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GER- MANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG- KONG.	YOKO- HAMA.	INDIA.
		T/T Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rup.
		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
5th.....	27 1/2	2.8½	2.8½	2.9½	2.8½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	3.47½/49½	3.47½/50	2.84	67½	72½	74½	201½
6th.....	27 1/2	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	3.47½/49½	3.47½/50	2.84	67½	72½	74½	201/201½
7th.....	27 1/2	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	3.47½/49½	3.47½/50	2.84	67½	72½	74½	201/201½
8th.....	27 1/2	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	3.48½/51	3.48½/51	2.85	68	72	74½	201½
9th.....	27 1/2	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	3.48½/51	3.49/52	2.85	68	72	74½	201½
10th.....	27 1/2	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.8½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	2.9½	3.49½/52	3.49½/52	2.85	68	72	74½	201½

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 14th instant;—

Business has been fairly brisk during the week, and prices have been well maintained on the whole, with exception of *China Traders*, and *Langkat* shares.

BANKS.—*Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—No local business is reported. In Hongkong shares are wanted at 321½ premium. The London rate is £59. News was received to-day of the total loss by fire of the Bank's new premises in Peking, the books being saved.

MARINE INSURANCE.—*China Traders'* shares were parted with at \$52, and *North Chinas* at £170. *Yangtzes* changed hands at \$130 cash and \$132½ for the 31st current.

FIRE INSURANCE.—No local business reported. *Hongkongs* have declined in Hongkong to \$312½, doubtless on account of the fire in Peking Road, in which the Co. lost about £40,000. As both the local Companies are interested in the loss of the Bank premises in Peking, we look for a decline in both stocks.

SHIPPING.—*Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat* shares were sold, and are offering, in Hongkong, at \$29. *Indo-China S.N.Co.* shares have been in strong demand, and business was done at £67 cash, £67½/66 for March, £68½/67½ for April, £69 for May, £69½ for June and £71 for July. Shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$91 cash and \$93 for June.

SUGARS.—*Perak Sugar Cultivation* shares were placed at £69. *China Sugar Refining* shares changed hands in Hongkong at \$145, but have since declined to \$134. It is reported that the working account for 1899 will show a loss of \$32,000, but a dividend of 5% will be paid out of the fund for the equalisation of dividends.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—*Boyd & Co.* shares have been sold at £225/222½. *S. C. Farnham & Co.* shares were sold for March delivery at £265. *Shanghai Engineering* shares were placed for the 31st current at £104. *Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf* shares have been sold at £270/275 cash, closing at £270/275, £270 for March, £280 for April, and £280 for July. *Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.*—The accounts for 1899 were passed at the meeting of shareholders held in Hongkong on the 5th instant. The net profits for the year were £138,616.22, equal to 13.86% on the capital, as against 17.36% in the previous year. Including a balance of £44,544.39 brought forward, and deducting an interim dividend of 5 per cent paid in August, there was a balance of \$133,160.61 at credit of profit and loss account, which was divided as follows:—\$50,000 as a final dividend of 5%. \$20,000 transferred to Depreciation and Repairs fund, \$13,000 written off Launches, Lighters and West point Wharf, and \$50,160.61 carried forward.

LANDS.—*Shanghai Land Investment* shares have declined to £84. There are buyers at that price, and sellers at £90. *Hongkong Land* share are quoted there at \$125.

INDUSTRIAL.—*Shanghai Gas* shares have been placed at £245/250. *Kivo Cotton Mill* shares are wanted at £67½. *International Cotton Mill* shares were sold for March at £70/73. *Yah Loong* shares are offering. *Shanghai Ice* shares were sold, Old at £33 and New at £32.

TUGS & CARGO BOATS.—*Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.* The report and accounts for 1899 have been published for the meeting of shareholders convened for 20th current. The net profits are £37,969.52 equal to 37.97% on the capital, as against 35.68% in the previous year. Including a balance of £564.69 brought forward, and deducting three interim dividends of 5% each paid during the year, there is a balance of £23,534.21 to distribute. It is recommended to place £9,500 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £92,000, write off £6,600 for Depreciation, pay £5,400 as a final dividend, (making 20% for the year), and carry forward £2,434.21. *Shanghai Cargo Boat* shares are offering at £192, and *Co-operative* shares at £187.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Shanghai-Langkot Tobacco Co.* Shares have been sold at very irregular rates. Cash shares were sold at £300/285/295 March shares at £295/290, May shares at £310, June shares at £310/330/325, and July shares at £325/340.

LOANS.—*Shanghai Land Investment* 5% Debentures were sold at £90, and 6% at £102, and *Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf* 6% Debentures at £103.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on Inv. allowing for Amortization.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures	1892 £50,000.00	£50,000.00	£100	5 %	June & Dec.	(a) 6.16%	... (a) £90.00
Do. 1893	£125,000.00	£60,000.00	£100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 6.05%	... (a) £95.00
Do. 1894	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	£100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.90%	... (a) £102.00
Do. 1895	£115,000.00	£115,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	(g) 6.01%	... (a) £90.00
Do. 1896	£140,000.00	£140,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.96%	... (a) £90.00
Do. 1897	£268,800.00	£268,800.00	£100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.93%	... (a) £90.00
Do. 1898	£300,000.00	£300,000.00	£100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.53%	... (a) £102.00
Gyzeum Theatre Debentures	£17,000.00	£17,000.00	£25	4 %	(l) 30 June, 1899	...	... £16.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E	£170,200.00	£169,500.00	£250	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 7.00%	... (a) £252.50
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures 1890	£150,000.00	£150,000.00	£100	6 %	May & Nov.	(g) 5.73%	... (a) £102.00
Do. Do. 1892	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5½ %	June & Dec.	(g) 6.31%	... (a) £95.00
Do. Do. 1894	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.79%	... (a) £102.00
Do. Do. 1896	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.96%	... (a) £90.00
Do. Do. 1900	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	.....	...	... £103.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures	£410,000.00	£410,000.00	£100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.99%	... (a) £101.00
Do. Do. 1895	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	5 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.96%	... (a) £90.00
Do. Do. 1896	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 6.00%	... (a) £100.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. Do. 1894	£170,000.00	£170,000.00	£100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.80%	... (a) £103.00
Do. Do. 1896	£170,000.00	£170,000.00	£100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.81%	... (a) £103.00
Perak Sugar C. Co. Debentures 1890	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	7 %	June & Dec.	(g) 6.81%	... (a) £101.00
Shanghai Gas Co. Do. 1897	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	5 %	April & Oct.	(g) 5.90%	... (a) £90.00
Do. Do. 1899	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6 %	May & Nov.	(g) 6.00%	... (a) £101.00

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 14th March, 1900.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVID. & C.		Average for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' dividends.	CASH QUOTATION	
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When paid or due.			Closing.	Tls.
Banks.												
Pongkeng & Shanghai Bank Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$11,500,000	\$960,843.56	31-12-99	*£2 19-2-00	\$33.22	per cent.	6.42	314%pm.	377.77
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.												
ordinary shares	106,761	£8	£4	.....	\$2207,615.61	31-12-98	None.	.....	.....	.....	£1.00	7.50
Do. deferred do.	1,119	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.55	£5.50	.....
National Bank of China, Ltd.	46,453	£16	£8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£29.00	21.17
Do. Founders'	3,818	£10	£1	.....	\$209,600.65	31-12-99	£1.36	12-3-00	\$0.45	.....	nominal	nom.
Do. Founders'	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$20.00	14.60
Insurance (Marine.)												
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	£10	£10	.....	\$1,349,810.8	0-6-99	£18 12-10-99	\$17.00	7.39	.....	\$230.00	167.90
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	4,000	£10	£10	.....	\$840,000.00	0-6-99	£14 10-10-99	\$4.00	7.60	.....	\$52.00	37.96
North China Ins. Co., Ltd.	1,000	£10	£10	.....	\$145,884.75	0-6-99	£19.52 21-10-99	\$19.01	11.18	.....	.....	170.00
Yantai Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	1,448	£10	£10	.....	\$165,878.07	1-12-97	£16 6-4-99	\$ 8.00	6.16	.....	\$130.00	94.90
London Insurance Co. (Ree)	10,000	£20	£20	.....	\$55,761.27	1-12-98	£11 14-10-99	\$10.33	7.95	.....	\$130.00	94.90
Standard Insurance Co., Ltd. in Liq.	10,000	£10	£10	.....	\$2,153.79	1-12-98	£12 7-3-99	\$0.67	.....	.....	2.00	1.46
Insurance (Fire.)												
Yonglong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	£250	£20	\$1,133,757.19	\$324,340.70	1-12-99	£27 2-3-00	\$26.00	8.32	.....	\$312.50	228.12
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	10,000	£100	£20	\$1,601,867.25	\$123,763.03	1-12-99	£16.00 8-3-00	\$6.22	7.25	.....	\$85.50	62.41
Shipping.												
Peking, China & Korea S.P. Co.	80,000	£15	£15	\$109,600	\$43,213.41	31-12-99	*£2 1-2-00	\$2.33	8.03	.....	\$29.00	21.17
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	\$135,501	\$19,197.13	31-12-98	£15.84 13-7-99	\$3.19	4.84	.....	£66.00	66.00
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.	16,000	£50	£50	\$47,446.32	.....	0-6-99	£16.00 27-9-98	\$3.33	6.94	.....	\$48.00	35.04
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,786	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	*£2 2-10-99	\$4.56	6.33	.....	.....	72.00
Do. ord. do.	1,251	£10	£10	£10,247.26	\$2,049.44	1-12-98	£10 21-3-99	\$5.52	.....	.....	nom.	nom.
Do. do. do.	15,535	£10	£5	.....	.....	.....	£10 21-3-99	\$2.76	7.32	.....	.....	37.70
Sugar Companies.												
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	£50	£50	\$35,000	\$5,765.77	31-8-99	£3.75 8-11-99	\$3.08	4.47	.....	.....	69.00
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	10,000	£100	£100	\$300,000	\$27,860.15	1-12-98	*£2 2-9-99	\$13.17	9.90	.....	\$133.00	97.09
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	\$59,819.96	1-12-98	£13 23-5-98	.....	.....	.....	\$46.00	33.58
Mining.												
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	£100	£100	.....	\$165,500.30	1-12-98	None.	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.00
Panjin Mining Co. Ltd.	59,600	£8	£5	.....	\$19,840.98	31-12-98	None.	.....	.....	.....	£5.90	4.31
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£1.20	0.88
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	40,000	£5	£5	.....	\$57,969.82	6-8-99	*£2 15-10-94	.....	.....	.....	\$13.00	9.49
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	10,000	£1	£1	.....	\$2,361.17	31-3-97	£0.50 24-7-99	\$1.02	1.64	.....	\$62.00	45.26
Docks, Wharves and Godowns.												
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Founders'	200	£100	£100	.....	\$5,618.15	30-4-99	£17 8-7-99	\$16.00	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Ordinary	7,800	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	£14 8-7-99	\$13.33	5.99	.....	.....	222.50
S. C. Farman & Co., Ltd.	8,000	£100	£100	\$425,000	\$19,800.14	30-6-99	£15 15-9-99	\$13.00	5.00	.....	.....	260.00
Shanghai S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	£100	£100	.....	\$47,447.86	30-4-99	*nom.	.....	.....	.....	.....	104.00
Do. Founders'	200	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250.00
Do. Pref.	1,500	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	*£3.50 30-8-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	110.00
H'kong & Wharves Dock Co., Ltd.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	\$40,269.36	1-12-99	*£2 28-2-00	\$40.00	5.38	.....	\$743.75	542.94
Shanghai & H'kong Wharf Co., Ltd.	15,000	£10	£10	.....	\$2,713.67	1-12-98	*£1 3-8-99	\$10.50	3.89	.....	.....	270.00
H'kong & K'owloon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	10,000	£10	£10	.....	\$0,100.61	.....	\$2.50 5-1-00	\$4.25	5.00	.....	\$85.00	62.05
Lands.												
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	26,000	£10	£10	\$1,490.71	\$7,129.70	1-12-99	£3.75 6-2-00	\$3.55	6.30	.....	.....	88.00
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	10,000	£10	£10	.....	\$3,352.94	1-12-99	£3.50 24-1-00	.....	4.00	.....	\$124.00	90.52
K'owloon Land & Build'g Co. Ltd.	5,000	£10	£10	.....	\$365.25	1-12-99	£1.25 6-2-99	\$1.08	3.86	.....	\$28.00	20.44
H'kong Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	55,000	£10	£10	.....	\$4,873.85	1-12-99	£10.50 20-2-00	\$0.57	6.19	.....	9.20	6.72
Wei-hai-wei Land & B. Co., Ltd.	3,000	£15	£15	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	25.00
Industrial.												
Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	\$18,633.55	1-12-98	£18 17-1-00	\$14.00	5.00	.....	.....	250.00
Singhai Producers, Ltd.	5,000	£10	£10	.....	\$77.73	1-12-98	£12 17-3-99	\$10.67	.....	.....	.....	55.00
Two Cotton Spinning & Weav. Co., Ltd.	15,000	£10	£10	.....	\$2,427.50	31-10-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67.50
Shanghai Cotton Spinning & Weav. Co. Ltd.	8,500	£10	£10	.....	\$48,465.12	0-9-99	£11 10-0-4-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	72.00
Shanghai Cotton Spinning & Weav. Co. Ltd.	8,000	£10	£10	.....	\$4,043.30	31-12-99	£4 1-8-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	70.00
Shanghai Cotton Spinning & Weav. Co. Ltd.	5,000	£10	£10	.....	\$5,617.83	31-12-99	£12 1-2-98	.....	.....	.....	.....	100.00
Shanghai Cotton Spinning & Weav. Co. Ltd.	7,000	£10	£10	.....	\$25,983.10	31-12-99	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	56.00
Shanghai Cotton S.W. & D. Co., Ltd.	1,000	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	£1 7-99	.....	.....	.....	\$38.00	27.74
Shanghai Ice, C. S. & R. Co., Ltd.	3,000	£15	£15	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	33.00
Do. New.	4,000	£15	£15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32.00
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ltd.	1,250	£15	£15	.....	\$3,553.10	1-12-99	£18 21-2-00	\$1.50	6.00	.....	.....	25.00
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	4,000	£10	£10	.....	\$3,439.94	1-12-99	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	35.00
American Cigarette Co., Ltd.	3,000	£10	£10	.....	\$1,282.71	31-12-98	£13 5-3-99	.....	.....	.....	.....	65.00
Shanghai Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd.	4,500	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	15.00
Shanghai Steam Laundry Co., Ltd.	2,500	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	20.00
Yue-Kang Glue Factory Co., Ltd.	2,000	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	20.00
Trams and Cable Cars.												
Shanghai Tram Co., Ltd.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	\$181.17	31-12-98	£15 20-12-99	\$20	8.51	.....	.....	235.00
Shanghai Cable Car Co., Ltd.	8,000	£100	£100	.....	\$3,714.66	1-12-98	£28 24-7-99	\$5.18	6.37	.....	\$190.00	92.70
Shanghai Cable Car Co., Ltd.	2,000	£100	£100	.....	\$3,342.42	1-12-99	£18 6-3-99	\$13.67	7.12	.....	.....	192.00
Shanghai Cable Car Co., Ltd.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	\$1,388.40	1-12-99	£18 6-3-99	\$12.60	6.42	.....	.....	187.00
Miscellaneous.												
Singhai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,500	£10	£10	\$40,000.00	\$4,720.44	1-12-98	*£15.52 26-7-99	\$15.06	5.68	.....	.....	265.00
Tientsin Waterworks Co., Ltd.	750	£100	£100	.....	\$17,576.22	30-4-98	£12 20-16-5-99	\$10.38	19.59	.....	£100.00	.....
Singhai Soda Water Co., Ltd.	13,000	£10	£10	\$75,000.00	\$1,043.31	1-12-98	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	53.00
Singhai Soda Water Co., Ltd.	9,150	£10	£10	.....	\$219,716.12	1-12-98	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	295.00
Singhai Soda Water Co., Ltd.	1,800	£10	£10	.....	\$5,100.85	1-12-98	£10 20-4-99	\$4.67	6.23	.....	.....	75.00
Shanghai & Co., Ltd.	1,000	£10	£10	.....	\$1,208.63	1-12-98	£13 31-5-99	\$2.33	4.23	.....	\$55.00	40.15
Shanghai & Co., Ltd.	1,000	£10	£10	.....	\$1,331.59	28-2-98	£22 29-4-99	\$4.00	11.43	.....	\$35.00	25.55
Shanghai & Co., Ltd.	60,000	£10	£10	\$150,000	\$2,317.35	31-12-98	£25 28-11-99	\$1.63	6.44	.....	\$16.00	11.68
Peking Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	£10	£10	.....	\$2,027.09	30-4-99	£16 10-7-99	\$0.50	4.55	.....	\$11.00	8.03
Do. New issue	30,000	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.10
Central Stores, Ltd.	1,000	£15	£15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$10.00	7.30

J. P. BISSET & Co.,

SHANGHAI, 14TH MARCH, 1900.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 10th March.)

PIECE GOODS.—The steamers carrying Piece goods for the opening of the trade with TIENSIN left here on the morning of the 8th inst., with the following cargo as returned by the Native Shipping Hongs:—

1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.
9,300 Bales American Sheetings	15,870	4,300 Bales American Drills	10,300	554 Cases White T-Cloths	...
500 " English do.	846	500 " English do.	262	100 Trusses Woollen Sp. Stripes	80
500 " Dutch do.	86	500 " Dutch do.	300	236 Bales Cotton do.	183
650 " Indian do.	50	500 " Indian do.	100	2,224 Cases Printed Cottons	1,383
500 " Shanghai do.	120	500 " Shanghai do.	100	30 " Velvets	16
200 " Japanese do.	25	230 " Indian T-Cloths	362	20 " Medium Cloth	...
905 " American Jeans	510	390 " English do.	384	71 Bales Russian do.	20
205 " English do.	70	50 " Japanese do.	110	50 Cases Muslins and Lenos	52
307 " Dutch do.	222	159 " Camlets	60	20 " Cotton Flannel	...
3,415 " English Shirtings	3,192	57 " Long Ells	50	150 Bales English Yarn	405
630 Cases Turkey Reds	435	117 " Lastings	152	5,650 " Indian do.	4,930
1,719 " Cotton Lastings	591	2,400 Cases White Shirtings	2,111	350 " Japanese do.	2,720
340 " Union Italians	205	140 " Irishes	161	5,640 " Shanghai do.	5,640

The total quantity is decidedly moderate, if these figures are correct, being only 38,018 packages against 51,842 packages last year. The falling off in the shipments of AMERICAN Sheetings and Drills is very noticeable, as is also the entire absence of Local Yarn, which we are inclined to think rather reflects on the reliability of these figures.

During the interval our market has been exceedingly quiet, in fact it really seems as though the dealers were seized with a sudden fear that present prices are unsafe and will not be maintained. There is little wonder that this should be so considering the unaccountable way in which goods are being sacrificed at Auction, upsetting as it does all calculations and preventing an adequate advance in the consuming districts. It is difficult to see the object that is aimed at in thus slaughtering goods it is impossible to replace, and naturally makes the Natives a little susceptible about the actual stability of the home markets. Private sellers cannot for a moment entertain such prices and consequently the current business is very small from first hands. There is besides an uneasy feeling regarding the political outlook, the very meagre information that is allowed to leak out concerning the intrigues that are undoubtedly in progress in the North causing great anxiety. Otherwise prospects appear to be fairly favourable, but everything depends on the course of events during the next few weeks, as if the present intentions of the powers that be are not thwarted it is quite as likely as not that the whole country will be in a state of rebellion. This would necessarily lead to Foreign intervention and consequences not pleasant to contemplate.

Meanwhile the home markets continue strong and Manufacturers unwilling to quote for goods earlier than the end of the year shipment. Supplies are coming in freely now and stocks accumulating, the shipments of Plain Cottons last month amounting to 42,000,000 yards, making the total for the two months the heaviest since 1896. Fancy goods, especially Dyed, are in very full supply. The LIVERPOOL Cotton market has fluctuated, a good deal during the interval, first advancing to 5½d. and dropping back to 5¼d. the quotation received to-day. There is no change in the NEW YORK market, fresh business for this being at a standstill apparently.

The Yarn market is looking up a little, but the enquiry is more speculative than consumptive. The anticipated falling off in shipments from India is the cause of this and it is rumoured that a syndicate of buyers contemplate buying up all available supplies here. Prices are meanwhile advancing, JAPANESE and LOCAL participating in the improvement. Cotton continues to rise here, best steam machine ginned being now quoted £20 40 net and TUNGCHOW £20 50 with bags.

Grey Shirtings.—S. 4 lbs.—Not a single sale is reported from first hands since the date of our last, beyond the Auctions, where prices rule firm for the lower grades, but slightly easier for the better makes.

Light Weights.—A private sale of 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. *Half Moon* chop is reported at £1.60, Auction prices for these and the lighter makes being rather easier.

Heavy Weights.—In these a few sales of moderate quantities are published, but it is difficult to tell whether they are from first hands or resales. The quotations given are:—*Gold 3 Fish* £2.57½, *Water Goat 1009* £2.60, *Black 4 Dragon* £2.67½, *Eagle and Fish* and *Orchid* £2.85, and *Rabbit and Moon* £3.50. Prices at Auction show considerable irregularity, the cheaper makes being fairly steady, but the best were decidedly weak.

13-lbs. 36-inch.—Sales to extent of 6,000 pieces are reported, namely.—*Three Men and Knife* £2.85 to arrive, *Elephant and Gun* £3.12½ and *Three Soldier DFD* £3.35. Easier prices were paid at Auction for most chops.

White Shirtings.—Privately business appears to be confined to small lots of odds and ends, of new chops principally, the only quotations that are given being 72 reed *Three Feather* at £2.90, *Swallow No. 1000* at £3.55 and *Woman 2020* at £4.10. Prices were a little mixed at Auction, but certainly show no improvement on the average. Home quotations are prohibitive.

T-Cloths.—No movement is reported in MANCHESTER makes privately, but at Auction steady to firm prices were paid.

In INDIAN a small sale is mentioned of *Yellow Lion* 6-lbs. at £1.48.

Jeans.—A small sale of ENGLISH 8-lbs. *Beaver* is published at £2.27½.

Drills.—ENGLISH.—There is very little enquiry for these makes as a rule, but we find in the market book a sale of 2,400 pieces *Flying Dragon AA* at £3.12½.

AMERICAN.—At the close we hear of the sale of 15,000 pieces *Pepperell Dragon* at £3.80.

DUTCH.—A small transaction is reported of *Tico Cock* chop at £3.05.

Sheetings.—English.—No private transactions have appeared, but the sales at Auction indicated a steady to firm market.

AMERICAN.—Business to extent of 32,000 pieces is reported from first hands, but the following quotations are only approximate, namely:—*Blue Cock* £3.35, *Stark Lion* £3.70 net, *Indian Head* and *Owl* £4.10 net proportion, as the sales were made in sterling.

Cotton Flannel.—These goods are out of season and there is consequently nothing doing in them.

Fancy Goods.—From stock the only movement of any importance is the sale of about 15,000 pieces *Turkey Reds* at the same prices as before, though rates were weak at Auction. A small indent business continues, both in *Printed* and *Dyed* goods, no particulars being given however. It is rumoured that some large contracts have been entered for *Fast Black Italians*, but it is difficult to credit this considering the high prices and distant delivery required. The cheaper qualities at Auction realised firmer prices, but the best makes dropped a mace.

Woollens.—Whether it is the effect of combination, or what, the bottom has tumbled out of the market for SPANISH STRIPES, the sales this week showing a sudden decline of from six to ten per cent. CAMLETS have improved slightly for *Scarlet* and *Dark Blue* in some chops, but other colours are lower again. LONG ELLS declined from one to two mace and look weak. LASTINGS are fairly steady in the higher reed, commoner makes being dull and drooping.

Cotton Yarn.—ENGLISH.—One or two resales are mentioned, but the only transactions from first hands are 25 bales *Stork* chop 2 fold 32s. at £107.00, and 25 bales single 32s. at £101.00.

INDIAN.—A fair business has been done in No. 10s. for TIENSIN and the River markets, showing an advance of a tael and a half, Nos. 16s. and 20s. being one tael higher. Settlements amount to 2,771 bales as follows:—

No. 10s., 2,225 bales—*Morarjee* £68.00, *Jubilee*, Mule, *Britannia*, Mule, *Union* and *Domader Lukhimidass* £68.50, *Diamond* £69.00, *Hope Mill* £69.25, *Anglo-Indian*, Mule £68.00/69.50, *Imperial* £68.50/69.50, *Connaught* £69.75, *James Greaves* £68.75/70.00, *Pabaney*, Ring £69.50/70.00, *Kohinoor*, *Swadeshi*, *Rose* and *Empress* £70.00, and *Tea Carrier* £70.00/71.25.

No. 12s., 95 bales—*Morarjee* £69.00 and *Currimbhoy*, Mule £73.00.

No. 16s., 200 bales—*Western India*, *Pony Carriage* £74.00/74.50, *Framjee Petit* £76.00, *Oriental Colaba* and *Tardew* £76.25.

No. 20s., 251 bales—*Vithaldas Copoldas* £78.00, *Ripon*, Ring £78.50, *City of Bombay* £78.75, *Currimbhoy*, Mule and *Hope Mill* £79.50.

The S.S. *Parramatta* added 5,932 bales to our stock.

JAPANESE.—There is more movement reported in these Spinings, some 2,000 bales having changed hands on the basis of £81.50/83.50 for No. 16s. and £83.50/85.00 for No. 20s., which show a decided advance and brings prices nearer to the level of those ruling in JAPAN.

LOCAL.—A better feeling is manifest in our market the sales by the Mills amounting to nearly 4,000 bales at distinctly higher prices as follows:—

EXPORT.

Silk.—From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular of 10th inst.:—

The Home markets are quiet, Blue Elephants are quoted at 14²/₃ and Gold Kilings at Fcs. 35.50

RAW SILK.—Very little doing.

YELLOW SILK.—About 300 bales have been settled this week, prices are steady, stocks small.

*RIVALS, as per Customs Returns, March 1st to 9th are: 231 bales White, 30 bales Yellow and 55 bales Wild Silks.

RE-REELS AND HAND FILATURES.—Market quiet.

STEAM FILATURES.—Some 500/600 bales of New Season Cargo have been contracted for the opening price for Best Chops 9/11 deniers 1 and 2 is reported to be Tls. 920/900 and for 13/15 deniers 1 & 2 Tls. 900/880; afterwards contracts for the same quality 13/15 deniers 1 and 2 were placed at Tls. 870/850. Market Chops 13/15 deniers 1 and 2 have been placed Tls. 845/830.

The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 4,567 bales to the Continent, 4,555 bales to America, 85 bales to London and 20 bales to various ports.

WILD SILK.—About 100/150 bales Filatures and Raws have been done.

WASTE SILK.—Some business has been done in Tussah Waste.

200 piculs Tussah Waste 60% I, 40% II at Tls. 39.
200 piculs Szechuen Light Tussah at Tls. 30.

	Tls. per pol.		Tls. per pol.
TSATLEES.—		YELLOW SILK.—	
Blue Phoenix	562½	Kopun	345
TAYSAM.—		Fooyung	311½/335
Green Kahing M M	502½	Szechuen	265
9 x 12 Moss Gold Bear No. 1	360	WILD SILK.—	
YELLOW SILK.—		Tussah Filature Double Bird 4 Cocoons	315
Gold Elephant (Shantung)	427½	" " " S "	280
Mienchew	403½/410	" " " Spin. Girl S "	295
Meeyang	328½/350	" " " Raw	140/150

2,838

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 10th March, 1900, comprised the following Goods:—

For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.	For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.
Grey Shirtings.....29,627 pcs. against 24,393 pcs. and 26,165 pcs.			Velvets.....		
White Shirtings.....8,390 " " 7,999 " " 7,500 "			Velveteens.....		
T-Cloths.....2,280 " " 590 " " 990 "			Cotton Italians.....2,010 " " 2,220 " " 1,740 "		
Drills, English....." " 300 " " 150 "			Camlets.....1,090 " " 1,000 " " 560 "		
Jeans.....220 " " 220 " " 220 "			Long Ells.....650 " " 770 " " 710 "		
Sheetings.....920 " " 860 " " 520 "			Lastings.....500 " " 480 " " 340 "		
Turkey Reds.....2,850 " " 1,920 " " 500 "			Spanish Stripes.....636 " " 180 " " 450 "		

At Nie-kee, 3rd inst.—

Turkey Reds.—900 pieces; *Green Bear* 4-lbs. £2.20, do. 4½-lbs. £2.30, do. 5-lbs. £2.46, do. 5½-lbs. £2.50, do. 7-lbs. £3.00; *Green Lion and Family* 4½-lbs. £2.27, do. 5-lbs. £2.56, do. 5½-lbs. £2.50, and 8 Joss 8-lbs. £3.35.

At E-wo, 7th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—7-lbs.—350 pieces; *Red Lotus* £1.80½.

8.4-lbs.—5,219 pieces; *Man and Gong* £2.00½/01, *Boy and Melon* £2.04, *Red Lotus* £2.07½, *Red Lion* £2.20/20½, *Red Dragon and 6 Women* £2.19, *Red Bell* £2.29, *Blue Dragon and Crown* £2.24, *Blue Bell* £2.45, *Blue Dragon and Spurs* £2.41, *Red Tea Caddy* £2.46, *Blue Man* £2.39, *Blue Tea Caddy DDD* £2.56, *Blue Dragon and E-wo* £2.42½, and *Blue 2 Tea Caddy* £2.83½.

10-lbs.—4,453 pieces; *Red Dragon and 7 Boys* £2.47½. *Blue Lion* £2.50½, *Blue Lamb* £2.72½, *Blue Crab* £2.82½/85, *Man and Rabbit* £2.70, *Green Dragon and 5 Men* £2.81½, *Blue Bell* £2.79/79½, *Man and Monster* £2.74½/75½, *Blue Dragon E-wo* £2.78½, *Blue Flower* £3.20, *Blue Tea Caddy DDD* £3.05, *Blue 2 Tea Caddy* £3.14½/14½, and *Blue Dragon and 5 Men* £8.40.

11-lbs.—250 pieces; *Blue Dragon and 7 Boys* £3.05.

12-lbs.—4,020 pieces; *Blue Chief* £2.68½, *Man and Monster* £3.03, *Man and Rabbit* £2.98½, *Man's Face and Bird* £3.02½, *Double Ladder and Gun* £3.05½, *Elephant* £3.03, *Blue Lotus* £3.18/19½, *Blue Bell* £3.06, *Bear* £3.21, *Man and Gun* £3.28/28½, *China Man* £3.40, *Blue Flower A.A* £3.45, do. *AAA* £3.52, *Man and Stork* *GG* £3.54½, *Fisher Boat* £3.56, and *Blue Flower BBB* £3.62.

13-lbs.—50 pieces; *Man and Rabbit* £3.61½.

White Shirtings.—1,650 pieces; *Painted Phenix BL* £3.50½, do. *CM* £3.55½, do. *DN* £3.56½, do. *EO* £3.51½, *Woman LP1* £3.75, do. *JS* £4.1½, do. *LU* £4.50, do. *KT* £4.53, *Flower NT9* £4.10, *Bue 9 Bats* £3.58½, *Blue 3 Bats* £3.92/93½, and *Blue Flag and Stamp* £4.06.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—1,740 pieces; *Man and Gong* £1.51, *Red Tea Caddy* £1.68½/69, *Blue Dragon and Shield* £1.73, and do. and *Crown* £1.80.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—100 pieces; *Tiger and Tree* £2.70½/71½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—800 pieces; *Double Buffalo Head* £3.03, *Bull's Head* £3.04½/14.

Turkey Reds.—1,150 pieces; *Mandarin* 2-lbs. £1.43, do. 2½-lbs. £1.47, do. 2½-lbs. £1.55½, and do. 3½-lbs. £1.68.

At Yuen-fong, 8th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—500 pieces; *Lotus* £0.81.

7-lbs.—2,250 pieces; *Blue Britannia* £1.84½, *Blue 4 Sisters* £1.86/86½, and *Blue 3 Students* £1.97½.

8.4-lbs.—5,245 pieces; *Green 9 Lion* £1.92/92½, *House* £1.92½/92½, *Double Men* £1.93½/94, *Blue Britannia* £1.98, *Blue 3 Stud ents* £2.26, *Blue Double Shield* £2.26½/27½, *Black Gold 3 Students* £2.31½/31½, *Red Emperor's Birthday* £2.31½, 7 *Sisters* £2.38½, and 5 *Brother* £2.40/40½.

10-lbs.—2,900 pieces; *Red Britannia* £2.77½/77½, *Red 3 Students* £2.74½, *Red Emperor's Birthday* £2.82/82½, *Red 4 Sisters* £2.85½/85½, and *Painted 3 Literati* £3.16½/17½.

10.12-lbs.—1,450 pieces; *Gold Britannia* £3.00, 18 *Brothers* £3.23½, and *Lily* £3.38½.

11-lbs.—750 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* £3.08½/09.

12-lbs.—1,440 pieces; *China Square* £3.09½/09½, *Nine Lions* £3.13½, *Soldier* £3.19, *Light House* £3.21½/21½, and *Lily* £3.51½/53½.

12.12-lbs.—250 pieces; 9 *Old Men* £3.73.

13.12-lbs.—250 pieces; *Black Flag Chief* £3.77½/78½.

14.12-lbs.—250 pieces; *Gold Sun* £4.09½/10.

White Shirtings.—64-reed.—1,900 pieces; *House Bright* £2.31½/31½, do. *Dull* £2.15, *Blue 2 Light House Bright* £2.34½, do. *Dull* £2.36½, and *Black Gold 3 Students* £2.72½.

72-reed.—4,840 pieces; *White Gold 3 Students* £2.89½/90, *Red 2 Sisters Bright* £2.89, *Red 2 Light House Bright* £2.90/90½, do. *Dull* £2.91, *Red Gold Star, Bright* £3.21½, do. *Dull* £3.15½, *Red 5 Stars, Bright* £3.48½, *Painted 4 Sisters Bright* £3.14, do. *Dull* £3.18½/19½, *Black Flag Chief* £3.40, *Painted Grand Fathers* £3.82½/84, *Lily* £3.91½, and *Student* £4.56.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—340 pieces; *Blue 3 Students* £1.47½, *Red Double Shield* £1.67½, and *Red 3 Students* £1.72.

8-lbs.—200 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* £2.28.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—120 pieces; *Double Squirrel* £2.57½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—120 pieces; *Old Man Head A.* £3.38½/38½.

Black Cotton Italians.—2,010 pieces; *Loo Loo Tong* £4.72½/75, *Painted 9 Lions* £5.00/05, *Painted 2 Sisters* £5.10, *Seven Sisters* £5.02½, *Black Flag Chief* £5.05/07½, 9 *Brothers* £4.90/92½, *Students* £5.02½, *Painted 18 Literati* £5.00, 6 *Brothers* £7.22½, and *Lily* £7.22½/25.

At Nie-kee, 10th instant.

Turkey Reds.—800 pieces; *Green Bear* 3½-lbs. £1.97, do. 4-lbs. £2.10, do. 4½-lbs. £2.32, do. 5-lbs. £2.46, *Green Lion and Family* 4½-lbs. £2.23, do. 5-lbs. £2.38, do. 5½-lbs. £2.47, and 8 Joss 8-lbs. £3.30.

Chops—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Dark Gentian	Gr. & N. Green.	Orange & Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White Purple	Black.	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt* Mid.	Sales Pcs.
	Tis.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Total.
Long Ells.												
Horse Head, H.D.B. p. pc.	6.99/7.00											209
Sales, pcs.	200											
Tiger & Ring, C.P.H. p. pc.	6.80											200
Sales, pcs.	200											
Double Phenix, p. pc.	6.85											120
Sales, pcs.	120											
Single Phenix, p. pc.	6.70											40
Sales, pcs.	40											
Tiger, C.P.H. p. pc.	5.17											90
Sales, pcs.	90											
Lastings.												
Ship, C.G.R. p. pc.								10.87½/75				300
Sales, pcs.								300				
9 Old Man, F.F.R. p. pc.								8.30/35				140
Sales, pcs.								140				
Dragon, & Phenix, p. pc.								9.40				60
Sales, pcs.								60				

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 9th March, 1900, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 47 to 54 both numbers inclusive.

RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.

GOODS.	Ningpo.	Wuchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Ichang & Chungking.	Cheloo.	Tientsin.	Kiaochow.	Foochow.	Nanking.	Japan.	Soochow & Hangchow.	Corea.	Vladivostok.	Locui.	Sundries.
Grey Shirtings †	11,265	1755	11,300	4725	7420	47,046	4780	8,897	20	...	...	2,910	1450	...	44,674	1100	12,500	...
T. Cloths, 32-in.	440	705	375	545	1520	6,720	...	2,390	50	...	...	...	...	...	70	1660	1,200	...
36-in.	710	...	...	30	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	800	...
Indian, 32 & 36-in.	...	...	...	...	190	...	...	250	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
White Shirtings	3,340	1050	1,948	1930	5792	29,511	100	3,500	...	...	...	560	...	...	3,047	5448	3,000	2390
Drills, English & Indian.	75	...	30	40	...	627	479	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	401	5969	600	...
Dutch	...	...	...	30	30	60	...	...	...	...	...	120	...	...	...	...	180	...
American	150	90	240	45	150	2,175	...	6,255	...	...	...	525	...	...	...	...	750	150
Jeans, English & Indian.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	400	...
Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Sheetings, English	750	...	1,380	2450	1466	3,680	600	140	...	...	...	2910	...	...	9,385	11,020	800	...
Indian	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
American	1,460	...	...	...	...	2,025	...	11,190	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	4060	1,200	...
Dyed Cottons	80	53	...	...	230	470	...	510	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,520	420	300	...
Printed Cottons	787	...	869	790	1180	4,800	...	2,240	...	...	...	721	...	...	513	...	800	...
Fancy Woven Cottons	90	...	...	410	80	1,110	90	307	...	...	...	90	...	...	984	617	400	30
Turkey Red Shirtings	275	235	360	815	575	3,450	425	815	...	...	...	500	...	...	455	255	400	...
Velvets	30	...	...	...	204	386	...	150	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	60	120	...
Velveteens	...	...	...	...	...	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	90	...
Handkerchiefs	410	...	200	780	440	2,880	601	500	...	...	250	200	...	640	...	100	3,000	...
Muslins	100	...	100	...	100	600	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,382	...	300	...
Lenos & Balzarines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,120	160	300	...
Cotton Yarn, Indian	195	39	3,075	9391	4,332	3462	...	144	...	...	...	78	...	...	...	...	750	...
English	33	...	...	3	21	786	...	96	...	...	...	3	...	...	213	9	30	...
Japan	341	6	133	60	30	0	4,623	155	27	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	180	...
Shanghai	...	...	...	142	150	150	390	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	36	24	96	60	72	60	...	6	...	...	...	48	...	...	...	...	120	...
Cotton	...	...	121	...	78	264	...	96	...	...	...	72	...	...	...	...	96	...
Medium & Broad Cloths	...	6	...	12	6	66	200	18	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	160	...
Camlets	160	130	...	40	210	980	...	30	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	180	...
Long Ells	60	42	80	320	150	1,510	40	20	...	...	100	...	...	...	...	160	...	...
Lastings	...	23	...	...	40	540	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	120	140	180
Italian Cloth	120	30	122	30	80	641	...	20	...	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	220	...
Cotton Lastings & Italians	1,981	740	1,771	881	1209	9,569	1901	2,507	692	...	...	370	...	...	1,594	1040	1,000	41
Cotton Flannels	40	20	...	...	90	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
do. Japan	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead-in Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	837	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1031	...	...	...	...
Iron, Nail Rod	256	...	...	210	...	210	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kerosine Oil, American, Cases	3,000	590	...	300	...	...	...	4,500	3,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...	...
Russian	2,900	6800	...	1300	...	1,000	...	2,000	9,000	1,000	...	...	...	1380	...	...	...	700

TOTAL DELIVERIES.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 31st Dec. 1899.

GOODS.	As above.	For the year ending 1st Jan. 1900.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1900.	Against last year to same term.	At date estimated.	Against 10th March 1899.
Grey Shirtings †	160,042	470,574	569,345	192,467	655,664	713,987	1,399,993	1,460,183
T. Cloths, 32-in.	15,675	64,180	85,971	34,617	89,930	123,936	271,032	355,836
36-in.	1,680	10,743	8,218	2,865	20,023	10,844	73,698	39,845
Indian, 32 & 36-in.	740	3,750	1,550	...	...	...	73,455	54,049
White Shirtings	61,616	173,108	181,353	70,446	253,207	256,786	548,449	464,411
Drills, Eng. & Indian	8,251	16,691	13,677	11,731	30,116	18,436	36,290	55,630
Dutch	420	2,525	80	4,290	8,100	1,260	19,525	12,335
American	10,530	33,820	50,410	29,550	144,635	190,066	202,435	231,063
Jeans, Eng. & Indian	520	4,910	4,140	5,429	12,579	9,640	29,100	48,673
Dutch	200	1,720	760	...	750	3,170	16,000	10,786
American	660	4,180	4,160	...	6,000	16,000	18,100	14,630
Sheetings, English	35,881	73,998	66,165	37,265	99,347	157,003	94,721	119,180
Indian	660	4,790	1,620	750	6,530	5,860	7,995	5,910
American	19,975	67,865	74,259	49,260	364,850	491,245	776,865	628,711
Dyed Cotton	3,583	8,628	9,043	4,701	14,241	13,189	26,205	19,371
Printed Cottons	12,769	34,846	32,438	24,810	87,978	39,023	263,907	256,768
Fancy Woven Cottons	4,208	9,759	9,156	1,657	12,915	15,163	15,614	61,458
Turkey Red Shirtings	8,560	24,688	28,585	19	23,005	39,617	83,626	51,098
Velvets	974	2,286	1,824	1,854	4,199	110	7,543	4,895
Velveteens	186	606	1,140	597	1,637	...	2,981	9,719
Handkerchiefs	10,001	45,903	41,440	30,562	77,692	75,449	224,520	142,331
Muslins	5,882	11,182	20,927	11,251	21,437	60,119	64,288	73,630
Lenos & Balzarines	5,580	7,580	8,937	1,086	3,089	42,821	44,625	50,066
Cotton Yarn, Indian	15,475	65,121	62,444	32,604	105,317	106,263	267,393	127,384
English	1,194	2,571	2,649	525	1,917	3,177	10,030	7,372
Japan	8,540	31,579	32,029	19,038	65,371	49,035	57,013	46,739
Shanghai	2,997	14,218	5,641	...	...	...	35,550	?
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	522	2,456	4,335	180	1,208	3,974	8,876	7,433
Cotton	727	2,783	2,664	...	1,633	...	9,852	9,159
Med. & Broad Cloths	480	2,161	1,780	597	2,019	2,181	9,040	11,833
Camlets	1,760	5,110	4,624	630	4,062	4,380	13,252	9,086
Long Ells	2,642	7,507	7,345	2,500	6,560	3,920	26,338	29,555
Lastings	1,223	3,883	3,630	740	4,374	6,971	20,782	22,177
Italian Cloth	1,413	6,137	9,263	1,113	6,324	6,004	19,702	38,182
Cotton Lastings & Italians	28,246	5,614	99,288	43,434	118,811	150,874	220,754	404,358
Cotton Flannels	670	5,452	8,314	3,437	12,102	4,349	73,361	3,301
do. Japan	60	514	867	210	1,180	1,777	7,316	?
Lead-in Pigs	837	1,038	3,992	...	...	8,322	17,827	9,333
Iron, Nail Rod	1,707	6,859	11,752	4,158	4,222	5,220	46,203	111,748
Kerosine Oil, American, Cases	26,690	153,057	333,119	76,615	76,615	...	574,000	728,294
Russian	26,080	184,583	155,025	203,594	303,594	256,692	81,000	218,595

† Including English and Dutch 12-lbs.

Exclusive of undeclared Import Cargoes per *Messiaha, Coptic, Hyson, Teenkai, Amuria, Hongkong Maru, Braemar, Nestor, Radnorshire, Calchas, China, Empress of Japan, Oopack, Coromandel, Glancus, Orestes, Nurnberg, Doric, Glenturret, Tonkin, Stuttgart, Glancus, Java, Parramatta, Nippon Maru and Konig Albert.*

Import Cargoes declared during the interval:—*Saint Regulus, Mogul, Westphalia, Pyrrhus, Ceylon, Sargeden, Oldenburg, Olyde, Bismarck and Sydney.*